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Butrus-Ghali Queried on Somalia, Libya, Iraq

NC0811213893 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 3, 5

[Interview with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari in New York on 1 November]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Ansari] With the secretary general's permission, let us leave generalities and deal with the facts and problems as they are—and here I mean the differences between the secretary general and the United States. What are the reasons for the confrontation over Somalia?

[Butrus-Ghali] Frankly speaking, as has become clear and known, the Somali operation has not achieved the desired goal. A scapegoat was needed, and there was no one better than the United Nations and the one who represents it—the secretary general.

Regrettably, countries have forgotten that all the resolutions about Somalia were issued by the UN Security Council. All these resolutions were drafted and passed with the approval of the United States, France, England, Russia, and China—that is, the five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as the remaining members.

[Al-Ansari] The failure in Somalia threatens and affects the reputation of everyone—the United Nations and its secretary general, the United States and its international credibility. What is your assessment of the reasons for this failure in Somalia?

[Butrus-Ghali] The first reason is the hesitation of the states participating in the Somalia operation in shouldering the human burden of the military confrontation. Public opinion in the states that have contributed forces in Somalia does not accept or understand the fact that one of their sons is killed in a country to which he went on a humanitarian mission to end the suffering and contribute to the establishment of security and peace. Countries and peoples accept the fact that their sons die defending their country. But they do not accept the fact that their sons die defending an issue not directly linked to their country's interests. They do not accept that soldiers die in operations that basically and primarily are operations for peace and humanitarian purposes. They do not accept the fact that soldiers are killed when they have gone there as mediators and not parties or partners with this or that faction. This is the first reason. I have said before that no one wants to pay the price of peace in areas of conflict in human sacrifice.

The second reason lies in the fact that while humanity, particularly its big powers, were ready to pay more than $1 billion daily on the arms race during the Cold War and an equal or double this figure—also daily—on other equipment, preparations, and tools of the Cold War, these same states are refusing today to spend less than one percent of the Cold War expenditure to ensure that stability and peace prevail. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] Let us move to another hot issue that you have tried and are still trying to address, but on which no progress has been achieved: the Libyan-Western problem over the Lockerbie issue. Is there anything new? Is a Security Council resolution to toughen sanctions likely, or has it been ruled out?

[Butrus-Ghali] I have made every possible effort with the Libyan leaders to reach a solution. I succeeded in convincing the Security Council to give Libya more time before passing a new resolution to toughen the sanctions. Regrettably, I have not succeeded in my mission.

[Al-Ansari] What is the reason for this failure?

[Butrus-Ghali] The reason is the existence of difficulties in implementing the Security Council resolution and the trial of the Libyan suspects before a court in Scotland. There is mutual lack of confidence between the two parties involved in the problem: Libya, on one hand, and Britain, France, and the United States, on the other.

[Al-Ansari] Have your efforts ended?

[Butrus-Ghali] I am still fully prepared to play the role of mediator if the Security Council entrusts me with it, provided the Libyans agree to help me and facilitate my task.

[Al-Ansari] Do you have any new proposals to bring the views closer, decrease the suspicion, and build mutual confidence?

[Butrus-Ghali] I have already made several proposals to both sides and counted on their agreement in my attempts to made my mission successful. Regrettably, however, the necessary goal has not been achieved. This does not mean that I have lost hope for a solution, because I believe in dialogue and negotiations. I hope that we will reach a solution and a settlement through negotiations and dialogue.

[Al-Ansari] What if the Security Council passes a resolution to toughen the sanctions?

[Butrus-Ghali] This possibility motivates me to continue my mission, dialogue, and efforts to alleviate, suspend, and even cancel the sanctions.

[Al-Ansari] What is the likelihood of a new resolution to toughen the sanctions being approved?

[Butrus-Ghali] Regrettably, I am afraid a new resolution will be passed within days or weeks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] Does the United Nations have another role in rebuilding the Gaza Strip and Jericho, particularly the dilapidated infrastructure, and in starting new projects to assimilate the unemployed there?

[Butrus-Ghali] I have sent letters to a number of leaders of rich countries to contribute to funding the projects that will be carried out by our agencies in the humanitarian, development, and relief aid fields. These much-needed donations would increase the capabilities of these agencies.

[Al-Ansari] Can the United Nations expand its tasks, particularly since the agreements and solutions are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and since the refugee and peacekeeping issues are part of the work of the United Nations in this new era?

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations will not hesitate to send peacekeeping force or observers, as in the case of the Golan, the Lebanese-Israeli borders, and Sinai, if the Palestinian and Israeli parties agree and request it. If we receive such a request, I will forward it to the Security Council, recommending it for approval in order to protect and back the agreement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ansari] Will the situation in Iraq remain unchanged? Is there any relation between progress in the Middle East peace process and maintaining the embargo and sanctions against Iraq?

[Butrus-Ghali] There is no relation; the issue has to do with compliance with Security Council resolutions. I have heard that Tariq 'Aziz will be traveling to New York soon because Iraq's case will be discussed at the Security Council next week. I will receive 'Aziz and continue the dialogue with him—the dialogue has been going on for more than 18 months.

We are trying, through this dialogue, to find a solution to the differences between the Security Council and Iraq—one based on the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Ansari] Why did the Security Council go back on its decision to allow Iraq to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil?

[Butrus-Ghali] The Security Council did not go back on its decision; Iraq withdrew its acceptance. The international resolution originally allows Iraq to sell some oil so that part of the revenues can be used to cover the expenses of the destruction of Iraq's weapons and military equipment, estimated at $100 million, another part to cover some of the compensation claims, estimated at $300 million, and the rest to cover Iraq's humanitarian needs for food, medicine, and some essential spare parts.

Iraq, however, withdrew its acceptance. It demanded that the economic sanctions be lifted now that it has met its obligations and implemented the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Ansari] Is Tariq 'Aziz coming for this purpose?

[Butrus-Ghali] I think so. In fact, I am not the person in charge of following up the implementation of the international resolutions against Iraq. The Sanctions Committee is in charge, and it will report to the Security Council before the latter debates the issue.

I believe the problem lies in the deep crisis of confidence between the Security Council's permanent member states and the Iraqi regime. This crisis continues, and it has many features, including Iraq's failure to recognize the demarcation of borders with its neighbors, and the presence of a number of political prisoners. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan, Israel Reportedly Reach 'Secret Agreement'

PM0911100893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris, Salamah Ni'mat in Amman, and Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo: "News of 'Secret Agreement' Reached Between Jordan and Israel"]

[Excerpt] A high-ranking diplomatic source in the French capital confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that Israel and Jordan "have reached agreement on all the issues raised in the negotiations between the two sides, similar to the agreement reached between the PLO and Israel in Oslo. It probably resolved most of the final issues between the two sides."

The source did not exclude the possibility that the agreement "has indeed already been initialed." He said that this step would most likely be made public next week after the Jordanian elections scheduled to take place the day after tomorrow, Monday.

Meanwhile, political circles were yesterday preoccupied with Israeli statements and leaks (through the press and radio) about a meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres a few days ago. [passage omitted]

Israel Said Trying To Set Up Husayn-Rabin Summit

NC0911073793 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 9 (AFP)—Israel is trying to fix up a summit between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn next week with a view to the Jordanian monarch visiting Jerusalem in December, a senior official said Tuesday [9 November].

Rabin flies to Washington overnight Thursday and is expected to see President Bill Clinton on Friday.

Husayn Denies Knowledge of Summit

NC0911101593 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, Nov 9 (AFP)—King Husayn of Jordan on Tuesday [9 November] denied reports from Israel that he was to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington next week.

"I can deny this information and I am not aware of any such arrangement," he told a press conference.

A senior Israeli foreign official said earlier that his country was trying to arrange a summit next week with a view to the king visiting Jerusalem in December.

'Official Sources' Report Rubinstein-Husayn Meetings

TA0911111793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 93 pp A1, A10

[Pool report]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Jordanian officials have made a complaint to the U.S. Administration over what they called Israel's "official" publication of last week's meeting between King Husayn and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Jordanians even said they suspect this is an Israeli trick aimed at encouraging Syria to advance in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, official sources reported that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein held dozens of meetings with King Husayn over the past several months as part of the negotiations between Israel and Jordan. Some of the meetings were held in Amman. [passage omitted]

Gaza-Jericho 'Reduced' Committee Opens Talks

NC0811165993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1454 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—A diplomatic source in Cairo said today that the meetings of the reduced Gaza-Jericho Committee, which opened at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo today, seek to remove the obstacles that faced the Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba and led to the suspension of the negotiations last week.

The source told MENA that the meetings of the reduced committee will last for two days.

The Palestinian side of the reduced committee is headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli side is headed by Deputy Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq.

The two sides include some members of the delegations that participated in the committee meetings in Taba, and the Israeli delegation includes Ya'qov Neriah, policy adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1540 GMT on 8 November adds: "Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations took place earlier today, but the foreign minister refused to specify the location [words indistinct].

["A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry stated that the negotiations will continue for two days, noting that the Taba negotiations will resume if an agreement is reached during the current talks."]

Agreement Reached on Staged Discussions

TA0911060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] The autonomy talks between Israel and the Palestinians on implementing the Gaza and Jericho First agreement continue today in Cairo. Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq is representing the Israeli team; Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinians. The talks were moved from Taba in order to escape press coverage, and the negotiations yesterday took place in a secret location.

According to Qol Yisra'el, an agenda was agreed to on negotiating the security question, the cause of last week's impasse. It was decided that the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, which the Palestinians say is only a redeployment, will be discussed in stages and negotiations on the IDF's final status in the autonomy period will be delayed to a later date.

At the end of the session, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was quoted as saying that if agreement can be reached today, then it will be possible to immediately resume the Taba talks.

Sha'th Cites Committee Differences on Security

JN0811222693 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], who will head the Palestinian side in the special Palestinian-Israeli committee, has said that [word indistinct] problems were resolved, whereas the main problem was how to deal with security in a way that would not affect complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Brother Sha'th added that the Palestinian position is very clear. He affirmed that Paragraph 13 of the Declaration of Principles clearly explains the meaning of redeployment, and that Paragraph 14 clearly stipulates withdrawal. Paragraph 13 stipulates redeployment in addition to withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, he said. The Israelis were granted the right of protecting the settlements. However, they want to stay in a land whose area is 170 square km out of 360 square km, he added.

Brother Sha'th noted that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel revealed that the Israelis are ready to discuss all our demands. The mini-meeting will reveal whether this is true or not, he added.

Israeli, Palestinian Unions Exhange Recognition

TA0511195393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] The Histadrut Labor Federation and the Organization of Palestinian Trade Unions have formally recognized one another. The declaration came today following a meeting between Histadrut Secretary General Hayim Haberfeld and a group of Palestinian trade union leaders from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It was also decided to form a working group which would immediately begin talks on an agenda for future cooperation. Haberfeld also announced that the Histadrut special seminars on training future labor leaders would now be open to the Palestinians.

The meeting took place at the home of the Israeli Arab Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who is a close adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Tibi told reporters that the PLO leader had endorsed the move.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Trial of Libyans in Third Country 'Useless'

NC0811162093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Mr. Steven Day, director general of the Arab-British Council for Understanding. Christopher Long, the British ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Asked about the latest developments in the Lockerbie crisis, the British ambassador said after the meeting that the idea of a trial in a third country is useless and impossible to realize. We explained this to Libya and its friends, he said.

He added: We want Libya to fully abide by Security Council Resolution 731. If the two Libyans comply with the resolution, then this will be something new for Libya, the Middle East, and the world.

Long stressed that his country is offering a fair trial for the two Libyans. All that Britain wants, he said, is to investigate a certain incident in which innocent citizens were killed. He said guarantees will be given not to demand the handing over of other people. He explained that British law guarantees a fair trial and does not object to neutral international quarters attending the trial to ensure its fairness.

The British ambassador said that if the Lockerbie crisis is resolved, there will be nothing to hinder normal relations with Libya, regardless of the ruling in the case. It is wrong to believe that my country has anything against the Libyan regime, he said.

He said he hopes that Arab-British relations will not be affected by the tightening of the sanctions against Libya.

For his part, Steven Day said he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed all Arab issues in which the Arab League plays a main role.

He said the Arab-British Council for Understanding is not interested in direct political issues, such as the Lockerbie crisis, but seeks to boost understanding over a number of general issues, such as human rights in the occupied territories. He noted that he visited the occupied territories before arriving in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Social Affairs Minister Arrives for Meeting

NC0711214293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo from Amman tonight on a visit of several days to Egypt.

During the visit, the Iraqi official will participate in the two-day meeting of the executive bureau of the Arab ministers of social affairs, which will start at the Arab League headquarters on Tuesday [9 November].

Jasim was received by Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'May Accept' Israeli Military in Gaza Strip

NC0811151093 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 8 Nov 93

[By Clarisse Lucas]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 8 (AFP)—Israel and the Palestinians were set to begin a new round of autonomy talks at a secret location here Monday [8 November], as the PLO appeared to soften its position on the Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

A PLO delegation official said the Palestinians may accept an Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip, but only inside Jewish settlements.

"We can accept Israeli soldiers inside the settlements to protect the settlers, but not outside them," said the PLO source, who declined to be named.

However, the Palestine Liberation Organisation would not tolerate "soldiers leaving the settlements to chase Palestinians."

Last Tuesday the Palestinian delegation quit the talks after accusing Israel of trying to renege on a commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

The PLO source said roads linking the settlements with Israel could be jointly patrolled by the Israelis and Palestinians, adding that the number of Israeli soldiers remaining in the strip under such circumstances "would not pose a problem."

The Israeli military would maintain its presence in the Gaza Strip during the first, three-year phase of autonomy, to protect settlements, which would be dismantled later.

The autonomy talks were moved to a secret location in Cairo from Taba, because both sides complained of excessive media coverage in the Red Sea resort. They are due to be completed by December 13, when Israeli troops are to begin their pullout from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said the Cairo negotiations would be undertaken by an "ad hoc committee," which the PLO's chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said would comprise four members of each delegation. They would focus on Israel's "concept of security."

Palestinian officials in Cairo said the negotiations were expected to continue Tuesday, with official statements issued only after the session wound up.

Last week Israel proposed pulling its troops back to three areas around Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip, voicing security concerns, while the Palestinians demanded a "general military withdrawal."

Sha'th said the Israelis were "using the security of the settlements as a pretext to hold on to 170 of the 360 square kilometres (145 square miles) that make up the area of Gaza."

'Arafat said Sunday the decision to return to the talks was taken because of the results of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel last week and Israel's apparent readiness to reconsider its stand on a withdrawal from Gaza.

Four rounds of negotiations have been held at Taba since October 13.

Under the autonomy agreement, Israel and the PLO have until December 13 to reach an interim accord on troop withdrawal and the transfer of authority for education, social welfare, tourism, direct taxation and health.

Seven Palestinians were wounded Sunday and two more Monday as Israeli settlers rampaged in the occupied territories in protest at an attack by suspected Islamic fundamentalists on one of their leaders.

Thousands of settlers halted traffic for three hours in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Monday, enraged by the ambush in which rabbi Hayim Druckman, a founder of the settler movement Gush Emunim, was wounded and his driver killed.

Radical Palestinian groups and Israeli settlers have rejected the Israeli-PLO deal.

'Arafat Holds Talks With al-Baz, Mubarak, EC's Claes

Meets With al-Baz; Briefed by Sha'th

NC0511145893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stopped over at Cairo Airport today en route from Tunis to Sanaa. 'Arafat and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, held an hour of talks in the airport's VIP lounge on the latest developments in the peace process.

Afterward, Dr. al-Baz said 'Arafat received a comprehensive report from Dr. Nabil Sha'th, his political adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, on the recent negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Taba. Dr. al-Baz said 'Arafat would return to Cairo from Sanaa in the next two days to meet President Husni Mubarak.

Dr. Sha'th said he briefed president 'Arafat on Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Confers With Mubarak; Arrives in Brussels

JN0811204593 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Brussels from Cairo at dawn today.

In Cairo, brother President Abu-'Ammar met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Following the meeting, Abu-'Ammar told reporters that it has been agreed to form a special Palestinian-Israeli committee to resolve the problems that led to the suspension of the Taba negotiations.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar said that this committee will resume the talks, and that it aims to resolve the problems that obstructed the negotiations on the concept of security. He denied that the differences over security were due to obscurity in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He said the differences were due to the Israelis' insistence on wrong interpretations of this agreement. When the Palestinians talked about full withdrawal, the Israelis talked about redeployment. There is a big difference between withdrawal and redeployment, he added.

Asks for EC Troops in Gaza, Jericho

AU0911100093 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Brussels, Nov 9 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here Tuesday [9 November] that he had asked the European Community to consider sending a multinational force to Gaza and Jericho, and had received a positive response.

Arafat was speaking after a meeting with Willy Claes, chairman of the European Community's Council of Foreign Ministers, on the second day of a two-day visit to the Belgian capital.

The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said he had asked the European Community to study the possibility of sending the force during a meeting with foreign ministers here on Monday, and all had given a positive response.

'Arafat, Russian Envoy Discuss Mideast Issues

LD0811201593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday met Boris Shchiborin, ambassador of the Russian Federation to Tunisia. The meeting dealt with the latest development of the situation in the peace process in the Middle East and the efforts which are being exerted to find new means in order to give fresh momentum to the peace negotiations as well as to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

Qaddumi Reaffirms Opposition Line in Interview

PM0811101493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 6

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Zuhayr Qusaybati in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qusaybati] How do you assess the talks on withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza?

[Qaddumi] We must admit that negotiations with Israel are a hard process which means that the Arab and Palestinian negotiators should continue to stick to the fixed political principles and should not make fundamental concessions. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] Have you retracted your opposition to the agreement?

[Qaddumi] That opposition is still valid and will not end until the drawbacks inherent in the Declaration of Principles are eliminated. Many articles in that Declaration are general, ambiguous, and do not fulfill Palestinian aspirations for the transitional period nor, of course, for the final phase. That is why the opposition forces are trying to create new facts on the ground to contribute to eliminating the consequences of these drawbacks.

In brief, international legitimacy is the basis which governs our negotiations at present and in the future. That means dismantling of the settlements, repatriation of all the refugees in accordance with a timetable, and restoration of East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state that must ultimately emerge. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] Hamas wants the agreement foiled ...

[Qaddumi] If it can foil the agreement then let it do so but if it cannot do that then it should join those struggling for the elimination of the flaws, use available opportunities, increase the territory from which Israel should withdraw, and strengthen national authority and unity. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] What about the new coordination between the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and Hizballah to torpedo the PLO-Israeli agreement?

[Qaddumi] We welcome any move which unites the resistance factions provided it is geared toward serving the national cause away from Palestinian infighting and without undermining the PLO and its existing institutions. All efforts should be pooled internally and there should be a national front for construction as well as resistance. The Palestinian people have a right to continue their resistance as long as there is Israeli occupation.

[Qusaybati] Do you not believe that the agreement canceled the right of resistance inside [the occupied territory]?

[Qaddumi] The Israelis can say what they like. We should not trust what they say. The Palestinians and the Arabs in general have had long experience with them. Palestinian resistance is a legitimate right. When the occupation ends there will be no justification for it.

[Qusaybati] Do you support the operations carried out by Hamas?

[Qaddumi] People facing repression have a right to continue their resistance. The recent incidents (in the West Bank and Gaza) are evidence of that. There have been flagrant attacks on citizens and property. How could the Palestinian people remain idle without defending themselves?

[Qusaybati] We heard that Dr. Nabil Sha'th expressed his condolences to the chief Israeli delegate to the Taba talks over the killing of an Israeli soldier in the occupied territory.

[Qaddumi] Resistance against military occupation forces is legitimate.

[Qusaybati] Do the Palestinian leaders in Tunis not have a common view on this matter?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe that anyone disagrees with that. If there are any (different) views then they are personal views not expressed in accordance with a leadership order.

[Qusaybati] You want East Jerusalem to be the capital of the Palestinian state. Is one to understand from this that you would recognize West Jerusalem as Israel's capital?

[Qaddumi] No, what we are saying is in line with the foundations on which the settlement is based, namely that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory.

[Qusaybati] Do you agree with the view that coordination among the cordon states has come to an end?

[Qaddumi] We hope the coordination among the five parties is not at an end. It must be revived because it is an important factor in improving our negotiating cards. We will continue to work for the resumption of coordination at its past level.

[Qusaybati] Despite the Syrian position criticizing the PLO's "departure" from Arab coordination ...

[Qaddumi] That matter should be tackled wisely and in a fraternal manner because we are still a part of the Arab nation with its common interests and fate.

[Qunaybati] Is the PLO trying to hold contacts with Damascus?

[Qaddumi] We are talking to other Arab states and are also waiting for the heat to subside because it is necessary that we should contact our brothers in Damascus directly. There is no call for Arab mediation but rather for good offices. There have been meetings between us through the Arab League and in New York and each side expressed its views.

[Qunaybati] Some questions have been raised about the possibility of Syrian support for those opposed to the agreement, with a view to foiling it.

[Qaddumi] Damascus has announced clearly that it would not interfere in this matter and that this is a Palestinian issue that concerns the PLO and the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Qunaybati] To ask an "old question": Do you believe that the agreement has been given full legitimacy by the Palestinian institutions, bearing in mind that the National Council [PNC] did not ratify it?

[Qaddumi] The Central Council shoulders the PNC's responsibilities when the latter is not in session but, still, we did call for a PNC meeting because it is the people's authority which is responsible for the ratification of such agreements. There is a need for it to convene in the future to ratify every agreement signed.

[Qunaybati] In your view, what prevented it from convening?

[Qaddumi] The subjective and financial circumstances. There is no venue (for it to meet in) and there would be no quorum, particularly as the opposition did not attend the Central Council session.

I repeat that this is a transitional period. The negotiations are still in progress, and we have not achieved a definitive solution. Israel might not honor the Declaration of Principles and might try to get out of it or cause trouble to justify nonadherence to it or nonwithdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, or it might make conditions aimed at perpetuating an Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region. I am one of those who are suspicious of Israeli intentions.

[Qunaybati] What about the results of the meetings held by the Palestinian leadership in Tunis before President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Morocco?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian leadership is setting up organizational structures for the absorption of economic aid and development projects. Contacts are continuing with the World Bank and the states which will provide aid for the Palestinian people when the occupation ends.

[Qunaybati] Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan was visibly upset with 'Arafat on that visit.

[Qaddumi] That means that all the rumors about differences (between them) are refuted by the realities on the ground. Brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] visits the Arab states all the time to brief the kings and presidents on the latest developments relating to the Palestinian question. He will visit Jordan after the (parliamentary) elections.

Fatah Official Wounded in Assassination Attempt

NC0911093193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, the 50-year-old Fatah official in Lebanon, was wounded this morning in an assassination attempt in the Qiyya'ah area of Sidon. At 0810, two gunmen fired on Wahbah, who sustained wounds in his neck, shoulder, and arm. He was taken to the Hammud hospital for treatment. Gunmen were seen in the streets of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp following the attempt.

'10 Factions' Urge Efforts To Thwart Accord

JN0811164593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1517 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—The 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] have underscored the need to step up the valiant intifadah in the face of occupation troops and settlers who have continued with the most heinous forms of repression, savagery, and organized terrorism against the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

This came in a statement issued by the 10 factions distributed here today to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian popular intifadah, which is entering its 72d month with more determination to defeat the occupation and achieve national independence.

The 10 factions called for enhancing the unity of our people and promoting the cohesion of their nationalist and Islamic forces inside and outside the occupied territories in order to thwart the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement and rebuild PLO institutions.

Concluding its statement, the 10 Palestinian factions saluted our people's heroes who are held in the jails of the occupation authorities. They also hailed the deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur, as well as the those who are keeping the intifadah going. They urged our heroic people in the occupied territories to stage a general national strike tomorrow, Tuesday.

Hamas Statement Urges Security Reorganization

JN0811152693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 15

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem, Quds Press—The Hamas Movement has criticized the security measures that the

PLO has taken to prevent the Israeli Mosad from penetrating the PLO and its establishments.

In a statement distributed in the occupied Arab territories, the movement said the disclosure of 'Adnan Yasin's link with the Mosad has shown a great deficiency that leaves the security and safety of the Palestinian people exposed.

In its statement, the movement emphasized that defendant Yasin, who holds the rank of colonel in the Palestinian intelligence organization, was acquainted with all the secret security and political files, and that he used to give advice on how the PLO should deal with all world countries in his capacity as deputy to the PLO ambassador in Tunis.

It added that Yasin, who was arrested by Tunisian security after he had been watched for a long time, was in charge of preparing security plans and reports that are presented to the PLO Executive Committee. In addition to this, Yasin was in charge of issuing permits to foreigners to enter the PLO headquarters and the places where the Palestinian leaders, including Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stay. He was also in charge of appointing personal bodyguards for the PLO leaders.

The movement, which opposes the PLO position on the peace process, charged that defendant Yasin has been working to create a confrontation between Fatah and Hamas activists in the occupied territories. It said Yasin had received instructions from Israeli intelligence officials calling for the destruction of the Hamas Movement during the self-rule stage and that Yasin had drafted these instructions into a plan that he tried to present to Fatah officials.

The movement urged the PLO to reorganize its security structure, pointing out that it is likely that Yasin planted other Mosad agents within the PLO's sensitive agencies.

Algeria

Abduction of French Citizens Explained

LD0811214793 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] A mysterious Supreme Council of the Islamic Armed Forces in Algeria, has just released a communique in Paris. It says that the abduction of three French citizens was aimed—I quote—at drawing attention to the crimes committed by the military junta in Algiers, and that the French authorities must distance themselves from this Algerian regime. Moreover, the council says that the letter given to one of the released hostages does not contain any threat toward the foreigners living in Algeria, and it challenges the authorities to publish the famous letter.

Foreign Minister Receives Polisario Delegation

LD0811212693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri received at the Foreign Ministry today a Polisario delegation, which included, in particular, Foreign Minister Mohamed Ould Salek and Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the Polisario's coordinator with the MINURSO [UN Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara]. The meeting dealt with the latest development on the implementation of the UN plan for resolving the Western Saharan problem and the UN role regarding the implementation of such a plan.

Higher State Council Pardons Prisoners

LD0811210593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the 1 November Revolution and in loyalty to its ideals, which are based upon fraternity, tolerance, and compassion, the Higher State Council has issued, following the minister of justice's proposal and the agreement of the Higher Judicial Council, a decree to pardon a number of prisoners who were convicted in cases that did not involve terrorism, sabotage, and violation of state security. The pardon covers nearly 3,000 prisoners who have between only one and nine months left on their sentences. A considerable number of prisoners have also benefited from the decree; their prison terms were reduced by nine to 12 months. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Agriculture, U.S. Visit at NDP Meeting

NC0711184493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The National Democratic Party's [NDP] Parliamentary Committee met at the headquarters of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics today under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali, ministers, the Cairo governor, and NDP deputies in the People's Assembly were also present.

After the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated: President Mubarak stressed that the current People's Assembly must perform distinctive parliamentary service for the good of the public during its remaining two terms, attain the people's goals, and promote their interests by carrying out its national duties of supervision, legislation, and strengthening democracy.

President Mubarak also called for greater cooperation between the People's Assembly members and the ministers via regularly scheduled meetings. He said every one of them has the responsibility of solving the citizens' problems and defending their rights, explaining that this can be carried out during the meetings of the NDP's political club and in separate meetings between deputies and ministers.

Al-Sharif added: President Mubarak pointed out that the ministers will continue their field visits to the governorates to view the people's problems and solve them.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Mubarak answered several questions. Asked whether the price of bread will be allowed to float freely, President Mubarak said this is absolutely out of the question, that the price of a loaf will not change, and that it will not lose its government subsidy. He said the government takes into account the importance of this issue to the majority of the people.

Regarding the debts that farmers owe the state as a result of the loans they obtained to set up new projects, the president announced that it has been decided to reschedule the debts spent on serious projects. He explained that all such cases will be studied, including the cases of individuals who obtained loans and used them for purposes other than the ones specified.

President Mubarak asked that the NDP Agriculture Committee meet to discuss all pertinent issues, including ventures connected with cotton, rice, and sugarcane crops, and other agricultural issues.

Asked how farmers will be paid for the cotton they produce for the market, the information minister cited Dr. 'Atif Sidqi as saying that the price of cotton was due to be liberated this year in order to bring the cotton trade into the free market and establish a cotton stock market within the framework of an integrated economic policy. Dr. Sidqi added that the government has announced it will adhere to last year's cotton prices with regard to this year's crop. The price ranges from 225 to 250 pounds per qantar [44.53 kg], varying from one governorate to another. This applies to all cotton except long-fiber cotton, the price of which this year will be 30 pounds less per qantar than last year's. He noted that the government will absorb the 200-million-pound loss resulting from the lower price of long-fiber cotton. Dr. Sidqi explained that the issue of financing the cotton companies has been resolved via an agreement with the banks with the help of the Economy Ministry and by obtaining the necessary credit guarantees. Sidqi added that the banks will finance the farmers and pay them the sums that are due to them.

Sidqi announced that a decision has been made to permit the unrestricted exportation of Egyptian rice, both white and brown, because this year's crop exceeded the country's needs.

The prime minister said this will secure a good price for the farmers and that threshing companies will be given 900,000 tons, the quantity needed for domestic consumption. He added that these companies must allow the price of exported rice to be set in accordance with the local price.

Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, said that 120,000 tons of rice have been exported this year, compared with 500,000 tons over the same period last year. He said contracts have been made to export rice and also to supply it to the domestic market at suitable prices.

Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak commented on recent reports about sewage and water services projects in some governorates, noting that the government is taking positive and specific steps and will set priorities for these projects. He added that the NDP's Housing and Utilities Committee is studying these projects and determining priorities with the appropriate ministers.

The information minister said several questions were raised about educational matters and whether those who teach special subjects will be allowed to work abroad. President Mubarak said the NDP's Education Committee and the education and manpower ministers must discuss this and make suitable recommendations.

Discussing foreign policy, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt's foreign moves are closely linked with national performance and enhance Egypt's role, its international status, and interaction with the international community and its issues.

Discussing his visit to the United States, President Mubarak pointed to the excellent relations between Egypt and the United States and their close cooperation in numerous areas, noting that this coordination and these ties are based on mutual respect and common interests in view of Egypt's role and influence on the international, regional, and Arab levels. He pointed to his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton, political institutions, decisionmaking centers, and high-ranking officials in the U.S. Administration. He said that his visit to Washington provided a good opportunity to set forth facts and answer questions about numerous Arab, regional, and African issues.

Discussing Egypt's role in confronting extremists and terrorists who have been (?defeated) in Egypt and the progress achieved in the economic reform program to invigorate the Egyptian economy, progress documented by the IMF and World Bank reports—which are important testimonials, President Mubarak said that Egypt's policy is based on honesty and clarity. He noted that the results on the political and economic levels are positive and will serve development and regional issues.

Discussing the phenomenon of terrorism, President Mubarak explained that this phenomenon is sweeping the world and is not confined to Egypt, noting that Egypt is the least vulnerable to acts of terror. He said that Egypt is confronting this phenomenon with the law. He noted that daily acts of terror occur at extremely high rates in many European countries, the United States, Turkey, and the Mediterranean countries.

President Mubarak elaborated on his talks with U.S. President Clinton, which dealt with consultations over the position of the parties involved in the Middle East peace process and efforts to bring the Syrian-Israeli views closer to achieve progress in the peace talks. The talks also dealt with the situation in Somalia, south Lebanon, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also spoke of his visit to France and his meeting with French President Mitterrand and the strong ties and cooperation between Egypt and France, noting his political and economic talks on regional and international issues and the Middle East issue. He also noted his speech to the UNESCO conference, which was meant to correct the image of Islam after a deviant minority committed acts of violence in the name of Islam, harming the tolerant and magnanimous image of Islam.

President Mubarak noted his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which followed his visits to the United States and France, and the possibility of exploiting the positive results of this visit. He also referred to his meeting with brother Colonel al- Qadhdhafi and the messages and envoys he sent to a number of countries to brief them on his visit to the United States. He said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and a number of Libyan leaders were eager to come to Egypt at the start of Mubarak's new term. Safwat al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak said that his talks involved consultations to achieve Egypt's objective of making progress in the talks between the parties to the Libyan-Western crisis, noting that Egypt has spared no effort to resolve this crisis since it started. He said that Egypt made efforts on the international level to avert a confrontation. President Mubarak said he hopes that the resolution to toughen the sanctions will be postponed to give the parties time to reach a solution that is acceptable and satisfactory to all parties involved in the crisis.

Discussing regional developments and their relationship with Egypt's historic role, President Mubarak said: I always emphasize that there will be no peace or stability without Egypt nor will there be war without Egypt. Egypt has a historic role, and no political or economic power can marginalize its role. Egypt has potential and influential forces. We have to exploit our potential and resources in dealing with developments. From this arises the role of scientific research centers in following up developments to cope with new challenges, because there is no room for isolation in a world that is developing and moving at a very fast pace.

Responding to a question about the situation in Somalia, President Mubarak elaborated on the situation in Somalia, the myriad rival factions there, and the bloody conflict in Mogadishu between the two largest Somali factions. He noted that the UN forces were established to perform humanitarian acts and must maintain the goal of protecting the arrival of humanitarian aid to Somalia. He said that the Somali parties, within the framework of the African Committee, are seeking to reconcile their views. He noted that the African Committee understands the implications of this issue and seeks to settle the ongoing conflict and restore stability. He noted that despite the existence of huge difficulties, the Somalis must respond to the efforts of the African group and its concern over resolving the conflict.

Libyan Unity Secretary Meets Information Minister

NC0811173593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1637 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif received Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Congress for Unity, at noon today.

They discussed media relations, exchange of visits, and sharing of expertise in the field of information.

Departs for Sudan

NC0911122493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Congress for Unity, left Cairo at noon today following a three-day visit to Egypt.

In Cairo, the Libyan official held talks on developing bilateral ties with Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environmental affairs; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and senior officials.

Before leaving, al-Fazzani said he would head for Khartoum on a three-day visit during which he will deliver a message to Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir from brother Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Arab-Libyan-Sudanese relations, Arab issues, and issues of common interest.

Columnist Views Libyan Leader al-Qadhdhafi's Situation

NC0811221593 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 7

[Column by al-Sayyid al-Babili: "Al-Qadhdhafi Is in Danger"]

[Text] What is going on in Libya? Is there a new power struggle there, or is Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi still holding all the cards of the political game with the same strength he has used to run Libya's affairs since he came to power in 1969 ?

U.S. and European newspapers focus their reporting these days on conditions inside Libya. Most of these newspapers affirm that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is in real danger and that there is a state of disaffection in Libya, especially among the ranks of the Army officers because of delays in receiving their salaries for more than a year.

What we read in these Western newspapers are detailed reports about an attempted coup against al-Qadhdhafi a few weeks ago. The reports say that military aircraft were used to put down the coup and that a large number of people were killed or wounded. The most serious of these reports says that members of al-Qadhdhafi's clan participated in this attempt.

Regardless of the authenticity of the Western reports about the attempted coup and mounting dissatisfaction in some Libyan circles, what is certain is that the Libyan leader is facing a critical situation and a real challenge that might force him to contemplate stepping down, even temporarily, if the situation persists.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi is fortunate that the United States, which is lying in wait for him and looking for his mistakes, is currently preoccupied or, more precisely, "embroiled" in Somalia and is searching for an honorable way for its forces to withdraw from General Aidid's quagmire. After it devises a peace plan, the United States will have nothing left except to settle its scores with al-Qadhdhafi over the Lockerbie issue and his failure to hand over the two Libyan suspects for trial.

Al-Qadhdhafi has failed to win the world's sympathy to overcome the Lockerbie crisis and find an honorable way out that would secure a fair trial for the suspects and, moreover, ensure that in the end he himself will not be indicted and asked to appear in court on charges that he is also responsible for blowing up the Pan Am plane over Scotland.

Al-Qadhdhafi, however, is currently trying to buy what he cannot get through international relations. Reports indicate that he has offered Russia $1.8 billion in return for its veto of the new Security Council resolution that the Western countries are seeking against Libya for its failure to comply with the Security Council's request to hand over the two suspects.

What al-Qadhdhafi has not realized is that the Russians under Yeltsin are different from the Russians under Khrushchev and Brezhnev because they sell everything these days and that the slogans and ideologies that used to be sold secretly are not there anymore. Their veto is now for sale to the highest bidder, and, therefore, they will look toward the West, which offered more than al-Qadhdhafi did.

We cannot accurately judge what is happening in Libya, because most of the press reports come from the West and Libyan opposition sources exaggerate the magnitude of the troubles facing al- Qadhdhafi. However, a careful reading of all the reports from various sources confirms that even if he overcomes the latest coup crisis, al-Qadhdhafi will still pay a high price because he will be entering a confrontation with his closest supporters from among his clan members after losing their confidence and complete allegiance.

This confrontation alone is enough for Libya to enter a phase of violent domestic clashes, which will be added to the series of difficulties that Libya is facing, the negative effects of which are adding pressure to the internal situation. It is an extremely harsh autumn for leader al-Qadhdhafi.

'Jihad' Leader al-Zawahiri Given Asylum in Switzerland

PM0811164293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 1

[Muhammad Salah-al-Din report: "Jihad Group Leader Granted Asylum in Switzerland"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-HAYAH has learned that Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the "Jihad" group in Egypt, was granted political asylum in Switzerland, and is currently living in Geneva.

Egyptian sources have told AL-HAYAH that al-Zawahiri arrived in the Swiss capital nearly a month ago and submitted an application for political asylum, and that he received approval recently.

It is worth mentioning that al-Zawahiri was accused in the case of the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat. He spent three years in Turah Prison then left Egypt in 1985 and lived in Peshawar (Pakistan). He assumed the leadership of the "Jihad" group whose members carried out the attempt on the life of Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi in August, which resulted in two of the perpetrators—Nazih Nushi Rashid and Dia'-al-Din Hafiz—being killed.

Egyptian security organs accuse al-Zawahiri of being behind many of the acts of violence which occurred in Egypt recently and of issuing an order to carry out the operation against al-Alfi, assigning it to the "Vanguards of Conquest" organization, which is a military wing of the "Jihad" group.

Last month a military court in Egypt sentenced nine members of the organization to death and several more to imprisonment.

Egyptian police reports say that al-Zawahiri joined the "old Jihad" group in 1966 and was among those who went to Afghanistan in 1980. Then he returned to Egypt the following year and was arrested in the wake of al-Sadat's assassination. Then he went to Peshawar in 1985 and was forced to flee after the Pakistani Government's decision to deport the Afghan Arabs [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin] living there illegally. He moved between several states, including Sudan, before settling in Switzerland.

A statement, which AL-HAYAH received a copy of yesterday, bears the signature of the "Jihad" group and says that al-Zawahiri will hold a press conference next Wednesday in the Durun [as transliterated] Hotel in Geneva to deliver a speech entitled "Challenges Facing the Islamic Movement."

Al-Zawahiri is the second religious leader to be granted political asylum in a European state, as Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, spokesman for the Islamic group, who is known as "Abu-Tallal al-Qasimi," was granted political asylum in Denmark early in the year.

Paper Views 'Complicated' Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations

NC0811215893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM thinks negotiations on the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and procedures to implement it are more complicated than understanding what led to the agreement itself, which was reached in a particular way. In a commentary in its Tuesday's edition, the paper said that when the Declaration of Principles between the two parties was disclosed, it was already known that the real problems would begin with the start of the measures to implement it. The paper attributes these problems to the ambiguous formulation of certain points for various reasons, beginning with how the city or area of Jericho is defined and ending with certain clauses that deal with minute points.

AL-AHRAM notes that after a few rounds of negotiations by the Jericho-Gaza Committee things reached a deadlock before various parties interceded in a bid to settle the differences. The paper stressed that the other parties' roles have not ended, noting that the next stage may be more important than all that has happened so far.

Musa Comments on Efforts To End Burundi Conflict

NC0811190393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a report from Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African affairs and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, on the situation in Burundi.

The foreign minister stated that the purpose of the visit by President Mubarak's envoy to Burundi was to learn the facts and to hold contacts with the legitimate government and the other parties, including the Army commanders, in an attempt to resolve the current conflict.

Musa said that President Mubarak's envoy and OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim conveyed to Burundian Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi and the Army commanders the extreme displeasure felt by Africa and by OAU Chairman President Husni Mubarak for the bloodshed that occurred as a result of the military coup. They called on all parties to stop the bloodshed, restore legitimacy, and respect security.

He added that an agreement was reached to hold further consultations with the officials in Burundi. These consultations will be conducted by special envoys of the OAU secretary general and the UN secretary general.

South African Inkatha Leader Buthelezi Arrives in Cairo

NC0611213393 Cairo MENA in English 2115 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 6 (MENA)—Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the South African Inkatha Freedom Party, arrived here tonight on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

Buthelezi told reporters that he will brief the Egyptian Government and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, during talks, slated for tomorrow, on the developments of constitutional talks in South Africa and preparations for the April elections.

We want to achieve democracy through free elections, the Inkatha leader said.

Egypt, in its capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, seeks to resume Inkatha participation in constitutional talks in South Africa which group 26 parties, Muna 'Umar, head of Egypt's political bureau in South Africa, said after she welcomed Buthelezi.

Meets Mubarak

NC0711132093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that during their meeting today South Africa's Inkatha Leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi explained to President Mubarak the situation in South Africa as his movement sees it.

Musa said Mubarak and Buthelezi also discussed the ongoing negotiations between the South African Government and the African National Congress and the results of these negotiations—namely, the establishment of a transitional council, the holding of elections in April, and the formulation of a new constitution in South Africa—things with which Buthelezi does not agree.

Musa said that President Mubarak stressed the need for unifying African ranks at this delicate stage in South Africa's history.

The president also emphasized the importance of abolishing apartheid and starting a new era in South Africa where all sides join forces to end the conflict, particularly among African parties and groups.

The foreign minister said that Buthelezi asked that his movement enjoy a similar status at the OAU. President Mubarak commented on this by saying: This requires a decision by the OAU and its members. The important thing now is that South Africa move from the stage of liberation movements and political parties to the stage of being a new state and a democratic rule.

Mubarak also said that Egypt is interested in seeing all African nationalist groups satisfied and involved in the current developments.

The foreign minister said he will continue his talks with Buthelezi later today.

Meets Musa

NC0711160793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held talks with South Africa's Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi today.

They discussed the latest developments in South Africa and attempts to unify the national forces there before the April election with a view toward establishing a democratic South Africa.

After the meeting, Buthelezi said he explained to Mr. Musa the serious situation in South Africa and stressed the importance of confronting violence there and preparing carefully for the elections.

He asked: How could the elections be held under the shadow of the current cycle of violence (?against) party members in South Africa? He stressed that no free elections can be held until this wave of violence stops completely.

Leaves After Talks

NC0811092193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] South Africa's Inkatha leader Buthelezi left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he met with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for talks on the developments in South Africa and the need to unify the positions of the national forces prior to the elections scheduled to be held in April.

Police Officers, Soldiers Implicated in Weapons Theft

NC0811211293 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The State Security Investigation has uncovered a scheme for stealing weapons and ammunition from warehouses belonging to the Central Security and the Special Operations police in al-Jizah. Some police officers and soldiers were found to be involved in the thefts.

During surprise inspections, commanders of Special Operations camps in al-Haram discovered that a quantity of weapons and ammunition disappeared from warehouses. Interior Ministry officials were informed, and a search team including members from the State Security Investigation was formed. Investigations, surprisingly, revealed that some police officers and soldiers were involved in the thefts. Several sting operations were carried out, and two soldiers were arrested trying to smuggle ammunition boxes out of a camp at Km 10.5 on al-Haram desert highway. Security services are continuing their search for the remaining thieves.

Libya

JANA Political Editor Questions Thai Government Statement

LD0811200693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] News reports today quoted a statement by the Thai Government as saying that it has no evidence that its workers in Libya are involved in a chemical weapons project or are working on such a project.

JANA's political editor has commented on that, asking: What is the meaning, then, of the statements previously attributed to the Thai Government in which it claimed that Thai workers in Libya are working on a chemical weapons project? It became clear that these statements were lies, and here is the Thai Government itself disclaiming and denying these allegations.

Al-Bishari Comments on Lockerbie Suspects

NC0811192593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, Ibrahim al-Bishari, returned to Cairo today from Damascus after a two-day visit to Syria during which he handed a message from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. In an arrival statement, he said that he is carrying a message from Syrian President al-Asad to Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

On the trial of the two Libyan suspects in the blowing up of the U.S. airliner, al-Bishari said that we want a speedy trial to acquit Libya. We are not obstructing the trial and we want the trial to take place as quickly as possible. The suspects, he said, have a right to go anywhere they want, including the United States if they so decide. He said, however, that for purely legal reasons we cannot force them to leave Libya and it is up to them and to the defense panel to decide.

Paper Praises Russian Stance in UN

LD0811180593 Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 8 Nov 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Nov (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper yesterday featured an editorial on the recent declaration by Russia saying that the debts were not the reason for her threat to use the veto against the West's proposed resolution to the Security Council.

The paper pointed out that having sorted out her problems, regained her breath and buried her past, Russia emerged to declare her stance clearly and reply to all speculations and rumours which claimed that Russia threatened to veto the tightening of measures against the Jamahiriyah out of fear on her debts totalling 4 billion dollars. All the western countries who wished to heighten the crisis were looking for tricks to lure Russia to their side. They used promises and threats and hinted that they would grant her free interest loans.

The paper added that Russia kept quiet and cool vis a vis this western mentality which believes that money is everything.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said that the sources which attributed the Russian stance to the debts were not even courteous to think about other reasons. They did not do that deliberately in a bid to marginalize Russia and play down her international position robbing her of the intenational duty to keep a reasonable balance in the world.

The paper stressed that the Russians who were well known for their reservedness and choice of their words came out clearly to assert that the debts were not the reason for her threat to use the veto.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said that 'we the Libyans have the experience and the good knowledge of our Russian friends and we are aware that when they get angry they hit hard and if they promised they fulfill their promise without linking their stance to any condition aimed at humiliating or controlling others. The stance of the former Soviet Union set the example of the way relations should be between states. Undoubtedly, Russia which occupies the same seat will not change that (?well) established example and even she might show more comradery relationship which, if followed, will absorb all shocks and digest all international stances.

In ruling out the reason of debts, perhaps Russia did that on the basis of international stances thus Russia acted as a super power who is interested in world stability requiring her to take this position.

The paper stressed that 'we do not hide our desire to see Russia reemerging in the dress of the super power if not the great super power so as to keep the balance of power in a world where this balance was disturbed as only one super power was left in the world arena deciding policies and systems and imposing them on others.

The paper pointed out that the Russia's opposition to the humiliation of free peoples was a policy which came about thanks to Russia. We look forward to further firm stances which may restrain the arrogants who humiliated Russia and thought that she became a poor country without her daily means of livelihood before they humiliate the free peoples who reject the policies of the new world order.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR concluded its editorial by asking 'are we to say after now that Russia stood her feet firmly in the Security Council to put an end to this vituperation and declare that the world has two balanced sides.

Basic People's Congresses Resume Sessions

LD0911094393 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Harth [Nov] 9, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—In affirmation of direct people's democracy and in consolidation of the people's authority and through a democratic atmosphere the masses of the basic people's congresses have resumed yesterday for the second week running the sessions of its normal round for 1403 (1993) to discuss the agenda items which include numerous issues of concern in respect of domestic and foreign policies of the Great Jamahiriya. In yesterday's session the basic people's congresses have discussed a number of reports by people's committees as well as the notes of the General People's Committee for Supervision and Follow-up.

Through the rational discussions the masses have reaffirmed the significances of the reports and the information it contained which is considered to be the most suitable style to help the masses adopt rational decision based on facts and figures. The masses also confirmed the need for full commitment to the resolutions issued by the basic people's congresses and the need to put those decisions in action by people's committees.

Morocco

King Hassan Meets With Party Leaders

LD0511144293 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 05 (MAP)—King Hassan II held here Thursday [4 November] separate meetings with Ahmed Osman, chairman of the National Rally of Independents 'RNI' who was accompanied by Mohamed Hadou Chiguer, and leaders of the parties forming the national entente.

The meetings are part of ongoing consultations to form a government.

Political parties who form the national entente are the Constitutional Union 'UC', the Popular Movement 'MP', the National Democrat Party 'PND' and the National Popular Movement 'MNP'.

During the two meetings, the sovereign briefed the political leaders on previous talks he held with other political parties.

Now that these consultations are over, the sovereign will shortly decide on the drives to be made and make them public.

Advisor to the King Ahmed Reda Guedira and Secretary General of the Government Abbas el-Kaissi attended the meetings.

Describes Talks

LD0711225093 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2137 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Speech by King Hassan II on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Green March; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God. May prayer and peace be upon God's Messenger, his family, and companions.

Dear people: We are commemorating today the anniversary of the Green March; the march in which we all took part, from Boughaz to the Sahara.

And we must here today, as we remember the Green March and the many achievements realized in the Sahara, be thankful to Almighty God for his innumerable benefaction, grace, and blessing.

And we must also here pray for souls of our martyrs, members of the royal Armed Forces, the gendarmerie, the reserves, and the security men as well as those civilians who were killed in action in order to keep the Sahara Moroccan and its inhabitants Moroccans.

The idea of the Green March was, however, inspired by God and by some divine inspiration that we kept to ourselves at the beginning before turning such an inspiration into something palpable and into deeds. God was willing for such a dream to become a reality.

I would have liked today, O dear people, to convey to you the news of another march, a political march in the progress of our people in the present and the future, as I was reminding you of and congratulating you on the Green March.

What is this march that I wanted to bring to your notice, dear people? This march had come to be when the Moroccan political family had been divided into two parts: One part is called the Bloc [Kutlah] and the other is called the Concord [Wifaq].

As we were seeing this reality, we thanked Almighty God and praised him because personally I believe that if Morocco wanted to build its future policy on the basis of an equilibrium and equal balance its scales must have two sides. During all these years I have been asking myself: How can I, dear people, march along with you toward this political bilateralism or in European language, bipolarization or bipolarization [preceding word in French]. I used to see it as an impossible thing. First, in general, we, the Arabs are politically disorganized. Second, the nations of the Mediterranean north, south, east, and west—and Morocco is one of them—seldom submitted to this political bipolarization. At that time, I used to believe that this is one of the dreams that I will probably not see.

But here providence has fulfilled its will, as I already said to you dear people. In the past months I strangely found in front of me, with untold pleasure, two groups. The Bloc on the one side and the Concord on the other. At that time, I said: I must not let my people, or our dear sons and grandchildren and those who succeed them, miss this opportunity. It is because I believe that democracy that is useful and beneficial will be operative in the balance—the genuine balance that has not three or four arms on the scale but only two.

There are some people whose weight is heavy and there are those whose weight is light. By having these two sides, a country like England or the United States was able to use rotation, or alternatives, or change, or renewal whenever they saw that the weight and burden and responsibility had weakened this or that side and made them ask for renewal. Thus, the trust and the functions and responsibility were taken from this side and placed them with the other so that the latter could play its role and perform its task and undertake its responsibility and compete in order to allow the other side to rest and regain its breath and strength. Proceeding from this, and without any consideration for figures, is there a majority or a minority? In view—and as I have told you my dear people—of my desire and expectation for renewal and change, I took this opportunity for opening the era of deliberations. I summoned the political parties, led by the group that was in the opposition. It contains four parties. I proposed that it participate in the government. I laid down for it the following framework. I said that the number of votes you obtained in the election and the number of you who have won seats and are in parliament now deserve—although they are not in the majority—by virtue of their number to be invited by us to work by our side so that each one of you—the parties, individuals or groups—can show us another way of action, or another logic, or a new method that will make me first benefit from it, and make the new ministers on their part benefit also from my own long experience in this profession.

Moreover, I said that I make three conditions concerning economic life. The first, the budget deficit must not be more than 1.5 percent; second, the government must exercise a very strict control over inflation; and third, we have to devote ourselves to the hardships of the poor classes, not by means of charity, but by finding employment for them—work that gives its author dignity in that he earns his livelihood by working.

Finally, I told them that I will reserve the post of prime minister, foreign minister, justice minister, and interior minister; anything else is yours. I await your reply praying to God that you will not fail me as a citizen and as a patriot.

I said: As a king, I cannot blame anyone or hold in my heart any hatred against anyone. It is because I am the father of all. But as a patriot and a citizen, I will feel injustice and bitterness if you do not respond to my wish.

Subsequently, two days later, I wrote to the Concord saying that I had decided on change, innovation, and alternation [tadawul], but I also wanted to inform you of what I told the parties of the previous opposition. Here, my dear people, I forgot a very important point that I will come to now. I said that I had assured them of a political respite of a minimum of three years or a maximum of probably six years—from now until the year 2000. Thus, I want an accord to exist between me and you, the Concord parties, that if the government puts forward the question of confidence, you will not vote against it. I would also want you not to withdraw your confidence from the government for a minimum of three years, if not more, under a system of controlled [raqabah] voting.

However, despite all that, I do not want you to be rubber stamp parties. You have the right and it is your duty to discuss the plan and the legislative bills that will be proposals by the government. You will be able to add to them or delete from them. You should also bring in your share of draft laws that will come from you for the government to discuss and reply to you. You should do your duty by putting forward weekly questions as stipulated by the constitution, which requires the government, led by the prime minister, to make itself available via television and radio for any elected person to put any question he wants to ask and discuss his question and the minister's reply before deputies and the people.

The Concord group's reply was: We have nothing against Your Majesty implementing this policy. Furthermore, we favor change and want innovation. I told them: What if the other group rejects this? They replied: If they reject, then we will be at your disposal and we will not abandon our response to your call. However, we respectfully beg you to let us stay out of the government for some time because our parties want and need some kind of innovation. We need our elected members to visit those who have elected them once a week. We need the Concord parties to stand on their own feet and exercise constructive and positive opposition. This is not a condition, but a request that we insist on.

Subsequently, I had a meeting with the National Rally of Independents. My proposal was as I said, and their reply was the same as that of the Concord, namely that if the others rejected, they would like to have some time to gather their strength and restructure their party.

What was the response of the parties that grouped together in the previous opposition? With the exception of the Progress and Socialism Party, the other three parties said that they needed to return to their grassroots for deliberation and discussion and to get their consent. The Progress and Socialism Party said: We have held meetings and decided that if the parties of the previous opposition in parliament want to join the government, we will say yes right now. We have returned to our grassroots and they gave their consent because the natural ambition of political parties is to work seriously and diligently to get to a position of responsibility.

I gave them all a period of time to think. After that I met for the second time with the Bloc group, except the Party of Progress and Socialism, which I met separately. We discussed the recent election, which they said was rigged—a falsification of the popular will. They asked me to find a political solution for this problem. My answer was that the constitution does not give me any authorization to cancel the election process. Yes, the constitution gives me the power to dissolve parliament, but not for election purposes because there is a law that covers any complaint to be lodged regarding the election. Lodging complaints, before anything else, is a issue concerning courts and a specialized court at that. My answer to their question was that the maximum I could do was for the parliament to quickly enact the law relating to the establishment of the Constitutional Council, and for the latter to proceed to the current Constitutional Chamber so that it can give its views on it. I am confident that it will give a positive view.

At the same time, the Constitutional Chamber that now exists would abandon its jurisdiction with regard to the election disputes and then it would hand over all the dossiers to the Constitutional Council. What is the composition of the Constitutional Council? The Constitutional Council is composed of nine people; four of them to be appointed by the parliament. I told them: Therefore, you have to choose the best people you have in parliament to be members of the Constitutional Council. The other four are to be appointed by me. The chairman is to be appointed by me too. Therefore, if you regard the recent election that [words indistinct] were dishonest and doubtful, then let us give the dossier to the Constitutional Council, which is [words indistinct] an authority above all other authorities. I do not want here to draw a parallel because God Almighty does not accept that, but I ask His forgiveness for this—this authority's judgement is final and cannot be disputed. The judgement of the Constitutional Council shall be final and indisputable. I told them that was the only verdict with which we can help you; it is a legal and political verdict at the same time. As for us dissolving one third of the parliament, this cannot be done and is out of the question. Either we dissolve the whole parliament—yes, I have the right according to the constitution—if I dissolve it tomorrow I have to justify it, and if I want to justify that I would not say that I have done so because so and so said that they have been cheated, etc. This does not apply to the dissolution of parliament. The dissolution of parliament should be for political reasons, and these—praise be to God—do not exist, and I wholeheartedly pray God Almighty that these shall not exist at all.

I told the three parties four days ago that on Saturday I would be addressing my dear people on occasion of the march and would tell them that Morocco should have a reasonable government, which works seriously and studies its dossiers in depth and confidence. [passage indistinct] Actually they came (?the day after) and saw our private counselor Ahmed Reda Guedira. Their answer was as follows: First, the prime minister should be one of us; then he will discuss or deliberate with His Majesty the King on the issue of the four ministers [few words indistinct]. Second, we are still anxious about the issue of the recent election.

I do not conceal from you, my dear people, that when I heard that I was astonished and despaired. First—and as I told them when I gave my reasons for keeping those four ministries—I told them that the prime minister should be aware of his dossiers, and you—the three parties before me now—the least anyone of you has been outside government is eight years, while the remaining two have been outside the government for the past 30 or 33 years. How can we select from you a prime minister [words indistinct] and run a government that entirely does not know a thing while the prime minister himself, being at the head of it, does not know (?any of you).

I added: Yes, you now form a group, but if I chose a prime minister from one you, there would not be the solidarity and harmony that I desire. Because, though you are a group, you are made up of separate parties. There would be no trust among you. Tomorrow, you would be wasting your time watching what the prime minister is arranging with his party at night, lest he scheme behind your backs.

Second, the constitution stipulates that I personally appoint the prime minister. This is one of my constitutional rights.

I reminded him that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has nowadays also become one of the essential parts of the interior because our economic life, agriculture, commerce, exports, everything, is connected with our foreign policy, be it with the EC, or at the international or regional levels.

It is not possible to improvise here by appointing a foreign affairs minister suddenly. I reminded them of this thing and they agreed and said yes.

I told them: Second, during the Gulf War I met you as a bloc, and you were then extremists. The whole world was on one side, including Russia, and you were alone on the other side. I told them—and they admitted this—if you, the Bloc parties, persist in this intransigent manner, you are shutting yourselves of the post of foreign affairs minister because were we ever to select the foreign affairs minister from among you, then Morocco would be isolated the next day.

The Justice Ministry—justice is the basis of government, and justice is always issued in the name of his majesty the king, therefore no political group or political family, whatever it might be, can occupy such a position because man accepts God's injustice, but does not accept one group's injustice against another.

Finally and especially, regarding the Interior Ministry: It is the ministry that I will never give to any party.

Despite this, the group forgot one thing—that according to the constitution it is me who appoints the government, that I personally appoint the prime minister who proposes the ministers. He neither names them, nor appoints them. He only proposes them. If I want to oppose him, he could spend two months and bring me a list of 50 names that I would reject. There is no constitution, nor part of a constitution, that would force me to accept what he proposes.

Regrettably, I have prepared a list, and I shall read it out to you, my dear people, so that you know what ministries I have given them. With the exception of the posts of prime minister, foreign affairs minister, justice minister, and interior minister, I told them they could take anything starting with the Finance Ministry—the Finance Ministry being the backbone of every policy. I offered them the Public Health Ministry; Finance Ministry; National Education Ministry; Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine Ministry; Public Works and Vocational and Cadre Training Ministry; Transportation Ministry; Posts and Communications Ministry; Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry; Youth and Sports Ministry; Commerce, Industry, and Privatization Ministry; Employment, Handicraft, and Social Affairs Ministry; Energy and Mines Ministry; Cultural Affairs Ministry; Housing Ministry; Administrative Affairs Ministry, which includes all the state's civil servants; Foreign Trade, Investment,and Tourism Ministry; Ministry in charge of the Moroccan Community Abroad; Ministry in charge of Economic and Social Affairs; and also the Ministry for Protecting Natural Environment.

I would like to say here to this group: You have your papers and magazines; say and write whatever you like in them. As far as I am concerned, I do not have a paper or a magazine of my own, and I do not want one. I also do not have a party. I have, however, this opportunity to speak the truth; I speak the truth, always the truth, in order to be fair to myself.

I am, however, still optimistic. They have asked me to keep our dialogue open. I have told them: Yes, I will. I am a man who believes in dialogue; dialogue must be kept open between us.

I would like to say this to you dear people: Just as during the Green March, which was a dream that came true, I will continue to work seriously, compassionately, and wisely, God willing. I beseech God to give me more powers of persuasion after he has inspired me to be satisfied with my convictions. To give me the power of persuading in order to be able to set up a balance with two scales, and not three or four scales; Moroccan democracy must have only two scales.

The future will be like this. No six, seven, or 12 people will be allowed to be elected to parliament as one group or party that can sell their votes to the highest bidder—the majority or the minority. This is something I would not like to see as part of our parliament or our future. This is something I do not want. What I want is two fronts, each one with its own program and its own men; each one with a precise number of members and its own program. It will be up to each one of them to compete in the field for the good of the country. The term of office will be six or seven years in the limelight. Government is a tiring business. Elections should not mean that Morocco finds itself faced with three scales. No, it should only have two scales; it does not matter if both scales include four parties each; they will remain as one scale. One competent scale to alternate with another competent scale without any need for patching things up or for finding some extra third or fourth scale in order to have a balance.

This is true democracy. [passage omitted] I therefore address all the political parties and my dear people in order to say that despite all this today should remain a day of happiness and rejoicing and a day of thanksgiving to God Almighty for having made the march take place and that the march has yielded its results. I pray to God Almighty to assist us all—and I do not say to assist me alone—in order to arrive at the realization of this march, the parliamentary march, the bipolarization [preceding word in English and repeated in French]. Then when I reach that, I will believe that my mission has come to an end and that I only have to be happy by looking at what we have all planted and reaped so that we and our children and grandchildren can be happy under the aegis of democracy and social justice.

My dear people, do not let my bitterness reach you. My bitterness is the bitterness of the teacher who [passage indistinct]. Maybe I have not conveyed the message. The teacher whose message is not conveyed may feel bitter, but the teacher should not despair. The guide should not tire. My dear people, you have enough understanding, you are intelligent enough, and you have the capability to quickly grasp matters to make me believe that we all—those who are in agreement and those who are not—will reach through dialogue and patience the stage of creating this bipolarized democracy, which I consider to be the purest democracy. God only knows that I seek reform as much as I can. My success is but from God Himself in Whom I pledge my trust. God has spoken the truth. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

German Defense Official Offers Assistance

LD0511182693 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Morocco/Germany Rabat, Nov. 5 (MAP)—Germany wishes to consolidate cooperation ties with Morocco, which constitutes a 'factor of stability' for Europe, visiting German Defence Secretary of State Jorg Schonbohm Thursday [4 November] said.

Germany is called within the context of the Maastricht Treaty to widen the scope of cooperation with Morocco, which has a strategic geographic position, said the German official at a press briefing.

Schonbohm said the talks he had with Moroccan officials, particularly with Secretary General of the Defence Administration Gen. Mohamed Achahbar, were fruitful.

Germany will extend Morocco an assistance comprising various equipment to enable Morocco develop its infrastructure in the fields of health and road construction, the German official added.

In the military field, Schonbohm said the training dispensed by German military trainers to some 220 Moroccan trainees of the Royal Armed Forces at the Rabat professional center will enable the trainees to acquire knowledge in military and civil realms.

The German official had arrived in Rabat Wednesday leading an important delegation.

Sudan

Opposition, NIF Leaders on Secession of South

BR0411151293 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 4 Nov 93 p 6

[Article by Els de Temmerman: "Sudanese People Are Becoming Tired of Fundamentalism—Democratic 'Plastic Surgery' of Regime Makes Secession of South Open to Discussion"]

[Text] Khartoum—Until recently Sudan's fundamentalist regime appeared immovably enthroned. For four years the many Islamic security services successfully nipped the seeds of any opposition in the bud. Now students are marching in the street and Islamic banks are being set on fire.

People are refusing to allow themselves to be mobilized for any more anti-American demonstrations and the government newspapers are writing openly about the secession of the south.

The regime is making a series of political changes. The military junta disbanded itself two weeks ago. It appointed 'Umar al-Bashir as president and expanded the powers of the National Transitional Council, Sudan's parliament. Even the leadership of Hasan al-Turabi, the mind behind the Islamic regime, is shaky. "Sudan's Khomeyni" is having difficulty recovering from the karate blows that he received from a dissident Sudanese during his visit to Canada last year.

Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of the deposed democratic government and now the most important opposition leader, saw the constitutional changes as the usual "plastic surgery" of dictators. "There is no restoration of human rights or democratic institutions," the former prime minister said in his villa on the Nile in Omdurman, where he has lived under government observation since the coup of June 1989.

He believed that a power struggle was being fought out in the government between the older generation, which was more pragmatic, and the younger doctrinaire generation. Al-Turabi was reported to be playing a mediating role. "Who has beaten who remains to be seen, but it is clear that an ambush was involved," al-Mahdi said. "We are talking about a regime based on deception and camouflage. It is an exceptionally interesting Machiavellian power game."

The regime has failed in all areas, al-Mahdi said. "The junta promised to release the people from its hardships, to end the civil war, and improve international relations," he said. "But the economy is ruined. Peace in the south is further away than ever, and for the first time Sudan has been isolated by the international community."

Outside, the mosque is calling the town to evening prayers. "I do not believe that fundamentalism can put down roots in Sudanese society, where traditionally Muslims have been very tolerant of Christians and Jews," al-Mahdi mused, who when in power maintained the sharia (Islamic laws).

"This regime is doomed to go under," he said. "It will never get the Muslims in the north behind it. The Christians in the south are so disgusted by government policies that they are increasingly in favor of secession."

The man, under whose leadership the civil war reached unparalleled heights, admitted that he had changed his position on the southern question. "In the past I said: a peace agreement or war," he explained. "Now I say: a peace agreement or secession."

In the ruling NIF (National Islamic Front) calls are starting to be made for independence for the south. The sizable government army, which costs the treasury at least $1 million a day, is bleeding the country dry. The Muslim population of the north is also feeling the effect of the war. Petrol, sugar, and bread are scarce. Inflation will be 115 percent this year and prices are so low that farmers are leaving some of their harvest to rot in the fields.

The Gulf states are no longer so keen to help the radical regime and even the begging trips of Sudanese ministers to Tehran for cheap oil appear to have been fruitless. "From a moral point of view, secession would be terrible," NIF leader al-Turabi said in his office in central Khartoum. "Just like a married couple which can no longer live together and then separates. What is more, the south is totally divided. It would be worse than Somalia."

However, as a politician and lawyer, he said: "First let us try a federal state, reserve the option of self-determination, and then ask people whether they want secession. I would not oppose a referendum, after a cease-fire."

At first sight, Hasan al-Turabi does not appear the bogeyman that the West sees him to be. Frail, cheerful, with a sharp, bird-like face poking out from under a large white turban, he comes across as anything but the mind behind an ingenious plan to spread Islam throughout the world. Yet it was he who set up the NIF, a radical, well-organized Islamic party which has operated since the 1960's under various names.

Gradually the party built up a strong economic foundation thanks to the Islamic banking system and put its supporters in key positions in the army, education, the legal system, and politics.

Al-Turabi denied that there has been any political opposition in his country. Just like he denied that Christians are being persecuted, that their places of worship have been destroyed, and they have been placed in "peace camps" to be converted to Islam.

In fact, he said, he has a good understanding with the church. Had he not just returned from Rome, where he had met the pope? After all, Islam and Christianity form "one front against atheists, materialism, and secularism," he said.

"Most Europeans are atheists," al-Turabi said. "People need religion, higher values which are above ethnic differences. The collapse of communism has created a moral vacuum. Islam is enjoying a revival: from Indonesia via Palestine to Algeria."

Al-Turabi accused the West of double standards in assessing human rights issues. "Why is the finger pointed at Sudan?" he asked. "There are tens of thousands of political prisoners in Egypt, but no criticism is made of that."

"Dirty politics. The Europeans no longer have any moral values," he said, shaking his head. Then he looked us in the eyes and said emphatically: "Human rights are not a serious problem in Sudan."

For the average Sudanese in the north, who is trying to keep his children alive only to see them die in the south, there is no way out. He does not want this regime. New opposition blood is lacking: Young intellectuals who do not go along with the NIF are imprisoned. Or they have left the country. And the Sudanese people have lost all faith in the traditional parties.

"There were more freedoms under the democratic government of Sadiq al-Mahdi," a Khartoum inhabitant said. "But we were not any better off economically. Also al-Mahdi is following the same Islamic course as this regime. Only less openly." Or as a father no longer able to pay for the new school uniforms put it: "I would demonstrate in the streets for my children if there was an alternative. But not for Sadiq al-Mahdi."

Western Sahara

Polisario Official Blames Morocco for Stalemate

LD0911001993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 8 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Bachir Mustapha Sayed, Polisario delegate to New York talks on Western Sahara, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The file of Western Sahara has lately witnessed a number of setbacks, the most important of which was failure of the New York talks between the Polisario and Morocco. In order to know the reasons for the failure of such talks and the aspects of the Saharan file, our colleague conducted a brief telephone interview with the Polisario's second most powerful man, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, who led the Saharan delegation to the New York talks.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Sayed] ...In New York, a plenipotentiary high-ranking delegation tried sincerely and firmly to achieve a serious step in the peace process. However, the Moroccan side, which was also invited to the talks, did not attend them. And those who were there were only a confirmation of the absence of the Moroccan Government, which is the only other side with the Polisario in such talks. Hence, the opportunity was lost.

[Unidentified correspondent] How then, Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, would you evaluate the UN stance following two rounds of talks between the Polisario and Morocco?

[Sayed] As far as the UN Security Council was concerned it showed great credibility as well as commitment to a just peace under the UN aegis. As I was referring to the Security Council, I would like to express here my thanks and great appreciation for the role of the United States and the rest of [Security Council] members. The Moroccan side asked for the meeting through the committee of six, which includes three permanent and three non-permanent members. And this was an opportunity for the Saharan side. In both meetings, the United States in the first instance, Britain, France, Spain and the rest of members, in the second instance, had shown a real commitment to a serious dialogue. They strongly urged Morocco to return to the negotiations in order to make progress in the peace process.

[Correspondent] Last question: Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, what in your opinion are the motives for not holding a meeting between Yaqub Khan, during his latest tour, and the Saharan President Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz?

[Sayed] Yaqub Khan's tour came after the meeting in New York did not take place. Not holding the meeting [in New York] was due to two main factors. First, the absence of political will and honesty in the Moroccan Government's stand, which emerged not through speculation but through something tangible, that is through the letters written by the Ministry of Interior and signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary General, warning him of Polisario traps. Second, the UN special representative, who is an active UN representative, did not meet any Saharan officials—not because the Saharan side did not want such meetings, but rather because the special representative did not have enough time and did not want to give even a little of it to the Saharan side. He has months and weeks but he finds it difficult to give even a few hours in order to meet the Saharan officials. [end recording]

GCC Defense Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi

JN0811165393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Nov (WAKH)—The 12th meeting of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states defense ministers began here today under Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] defense minister.

The GCC defense ministers and GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan are participating in the two-day meeting.

Gen. Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum said the GCC countries have made clear and well-defined strides in all the spheres of constructive military cooperation.

In a speech at the meeting, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid said that the GCC countries have realized the importance of military cooperation and defense [words indistinct] their need for future planning where the will of the people in the region will meet.

He said: At this meeting, we are concerned with crucial issues and affairs that are linked to the present and the future of joint action. The meeting was initiated with determination, a sincere desire, and an approach that is filled with hope and loyalty.

He called for doubling joint action and for carrying out a more [word indistinct] and effective [word indistinct] in the field of military and security cooperation [words indistinct] a developed security and defense strategy that will meet the security and stability needs of the countries and people in the region.

He called on the GCC countries to depend on themselves and on the potentials of their brother Arab countries, taking into consideration many of the developments in the Arab and international arenas under the canopy of the new world order.

He said: We are not living in isolation, or far from the impact of what is taking place. He said the GCC countries are part of the world and have an effective role in the policies and events of the new world order.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid explained that the most important achievement of the new world order is the international community's inclination to shun violence and establish peace among the countries and people in the world, not to mention the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He said he hopes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be a first step on the road to a comprehensive peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East and to the restoration of all the Palestinian people's national rights on their soil.

Defense Ministers Approve Security Measures

LD0811183593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 8 Nov (KUNA)—The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] defense ministers approved a number of recommendations for strengthening and developing security and defense cooperation among the member countries here today. These recommendations will be submitted to the 13th GCC summit due to be held next December.

Following the first working session of the GCC defense ministers, which started at an earlier hour today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah pointed out in a special statement to KUNA that the GCC defense ministers approved the recommendations of the chiefs of staff of the member countries in connection with the development of the administrative and financial aspects of the Peninsula Shield force.

He added that all the recommendations of the chiefs of staff, among which are the continuation of both the joint military committee, formed to study the details of the project to link the member countries by an early warning network, and the joint committee entrusted with preparing a project for linking the GCC countries by means of a secure communications belt [hizam ittisalat mu'amman] [sentence incomplete as received]. [passage omitted: Shaykh 'Ali praises chiefs of staff for preparing recommendations and thanks United Arab Emirates for hosting the meetings]

The GCC defense ministers are scheduled to conclude their meeting, presided over by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, United Arab Emirates defense minister, at a final session to be held tomorrow, Tuesday, morning.

Defense Ministers End First Session

JN0811170593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Nov (WAKH)—The defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states today ended their first working session, which was held under the chairmanship of General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Maktum, the defense minister of the United Arab Emirates.

The defense ministers are discussing ways of promoting the existing military cooperation among the GCC member states in light of recommendations prepared by the chiefs of staff during their meeting in October.

GCC To Establish 'Early Warning Network'

LD0911093793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0753 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Nov—Defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries ended their 12th meeting here today and came up with recommendations to be submitted to the 13th GCC summit conference due to be held in Riyadh on the 20th of next month. The defense ministers of the council's six countries discussed all the issues pertaining to the strengthening of security and defense cooperation among the [member] countries.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah has said that practical steps will be taken to establish an early warning network for the GCC countries in the near future, after the locations of the command and its monitoring center have been agreed on. In a statement to journalists after the meeting, Shaykh 'Ali said that this agreement is based on the recommendations made by the chiefs of staff of the member countries' armies which will be submitted to the GCC countries' 13th summit conference due to be held in Riyadh.

Regarding the allocation of each country's contribution toward strengthening and developing the capabilities of the Peninsula Shield force, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said it has been agreed that each country must strengthen the force through the participation of units of its own forces, providing that a unified command of the Peninsula Shield Force is set up and that its chairmanship is assumed alternately by the member countries. He said that the command will be based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He added that in this context agreement has been reached to finance the force by a special budget from the GCC general secretariat.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed that there is no conflict between Kuwait's contribution to the Peninsula Shield Force and the defense agreement his country has signed with some superpowers, pointing out that the opposite is the case. [passage omitted on background to defense agreements with United States, France, Britain, and Russia]

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah added that the Peninsula Shield Force is the nucleus of a unified Gulf army. He also stressed that there is cooperation and coordination among the [Gulf Cooperation] Council's countries regarding the purchase of arms. [passage omitted on exchange of visits and consultations] He said that the State of Kuwait coordinated and held consultations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before signing the deal on the Abrams U.S. tanks recently.

In reply to a question, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed again that Iraq still poses a danger and a threat to the State of Kuwait and to the GCC member countries. [passage omitted on Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq]

Regarding Iran, he said: Kuwait regards Iran as a neighbor country which has a responsibility for maintaining security and stability in the Gulf.

The GCC defense ministers did not issue a communique at the end of their 12th meeting today, but in a statement to the press GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi affirmed that the meeting approved all the recommendations prepared by the chiefs of staff of the member countries' armies in connection with consolidating defense and security cooperation between the member countries. [passage omitted on Al-Qasimi saying the recommendations will be presented to the GCC leaders when they meet 20 December in Riyadh]

Kuwait

Oil Minister Opposes U.S.-European 'Carbon Tax'

NC0611101993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Kuwaiti Minister of Petroleum 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, in Kuwait, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] We have with us now on the open phone lines between Cairo and Kuwait Kuwaiti Minister of Petroleum 'Ali al-Baghli. We welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Baghli] Thank you. I am very happy to once again meet with the audience of the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, we have recently noticed a decrease in the oil production of the OPEC countries. Could you tell us the real reasons behind this decrease?

[Al-Baghli] This is a deliberate decrease. The OPEC extraordinary meeting was held during the last week of September. All or most OPEC countries have decreased their production. We agreed to set the oil output for all 12 OPEC members at 24.5 million barrels per day [bpd] for the next six months. We were expecting to see an improvement in prices, since they were down, and unnaturally low. We agreed to lower production so that supply will decrease and then this will be reflected by demand.

However, unfortunately we have been disappointed so far, since we have not seen any improvement in prices, which have continued to deteriorate—not steeply, but continuously.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are there any reasons behind the drop in prices?

[Al-Baghli] We have done what we can and cut the production of the OPEC countries. This was a credible six-month agreement between the OPEC countries. It is a unique event in OPEC's history for them to reach agreement over quotas for six months. Usually, such agreements are for a three-month period. However, Mr. Ashraf, there are numerous reasons for the lack of improvement in prices. We, the OPEC countries, cut our production, but countries outside OPEC increased their production. The countries of the North Sea have increased their production, as have Oman, Yemen, and the former Soviet Union. The latter increased its production because of the chaos and troubles in the CIS.

There isn't the normal consumption of petroleum there and most of their production is exported, which creates a surplus on the market.

There is also the Iraq factor. Iraq is producing more than its quota of 400,000 bpd. Iraq is producing 200,000 bpd more than its quota, around 600,000 bpd. There are many reasons, but there is no one decisive factor. It is just guesswork. But we expect an improvement in prices in December. We also hope the cold winter season will create a demand for OPEC oil.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Of course, Arab cooperation is required at this point in time and at this stage.

[Al-Baghli] Of course this is only natural. God willing, cooperation does exist. We are in constant contact with our brothers the oil ministers inside OPEC and outside it. The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] will meet in Damascus during the first week of December.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister, does the carbon tax imposed on oil have any effect on production and prices?

[Al-Baghli] If it is imposed in a serious and comprehensive way in Europe and the United States, it will certainly have an effect on demand. Increasing the price of oil will decrease demand. This is what we are expecting, but we are opposing it very strongly. This carbon tax is a statement of bad intentions. They want to decrease the emissions of carbon dioxide. They say petroleum increases the emissions of carbon dioxide and global warming. However, this has not been scientifically proven beyond the shadow of a doubt. What is very clear is that the brothers in Europe, the United States, and the industrially developed countries want to fill their coffers with money, so they fabricated this story for the carbon tax. This will harm us, since our economies are founded on oil production. It will affect the development of our countries, our regions, and the Third World in general.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Minister 'Ali al-Baghli, the 14th Gulf Cooperation Council summit will be held in Riyadh on 20 December. As an official responsible for oil production in one of the most important Arab and Gulf countries, what do you think the most important topics the summit will address are, particularly regarding oil?

[Al-Baghli] I hope we emerge with a unified policy so that we can take a unified stand on sensitive issues, such as the energy tax or carbon tax, in order to confront the voices that are calling for its imposition. We see that the United States is pushing and pulling regarding this tax. There are voices in the United States opposing this tax. The same goes for Britain, where there is strong opposition to this tax. Therefore, there is hesitation. We should exploit this hesitation and take a firm stand in cases where this tax is imposed. Let us take similar measures or resolve the issue through a cordial understanding between us and them by telling them, for example, that this issue is not scientifically proven, and that this is a measure that would harm us. We have no other recourse. I believe this is an important topic.

In addition, coordination of our oil policies is necessary.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. minister 'Ali al-Baghli, Kuwaiti oil minister, we would like to thank you for this telephone interview between Cairo and Kuwait on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Baghli] Thank you.

Iranian Envoy, Commerce Minister Discuss Trade

LD0811201193 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 8, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Hoseyn Sadeqi, Monday reviewed Iran-Kuwait trade relations with Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce 'Abdallah al-Hajiri in Kuwait today.

The two officials expressed hope that in light of the expanding relations between the two countries their trade exchanges would further diversify in the future.

Death Penalty for Hijackings To Be Introduced

NC0711161493 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Nov 7 (AFP)—Kuwait is planning to introduce the death penalty for plane hijackings which result in deaths, the newspaper Kuwait Times reported Sunday.

The government, in a draft law, also called for life imprisonment for hijackers found guilty of hostage-taking, causing injuries or inflicting damage to public property.

The parliament's foreign affairs committee approved the bill on Saturday. It still has to pass through the full national assembly.

United Arab Emirates

South Africa Seeking Helicopter Sales in Gulf

NC0811194293 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 8 Nov 93

[By Nadim Qa'wash]

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Nov 8 (AFP)—South Africa is using the international air show here to try to break into the Middle East market with its most advanced helicopter, a South African arms official said on Monday. [8 November]

Paul Holtzhausen, executive manager of the giant arms group Denel, said they were engaged in negotiations with Gulf countries to sell the combat CSH-2 Rooivalk helicopter as well as armoured cars and satellite systems.

"I am optimistic about deals with them," he told AFP in an interview at the international air show here.

The helicopter was "designed specially to operate in hot desert conditions given the nature of our country. We believe it is a desert helicopter for desert people."

Holtzhausen said South Africa had sold artillery and armoured vehicles to some countries in the Gulf despite sanctions but he declined to name the clients or those involved in the negotiations for the Rooivalk.

He said this was the first time South Africa had displayed its military technology at an international air show following the lifting of sanctions.

A total of 31 South African companies are participating in the five-day show along with other 420 firms from more than 30 countries. Denel, which is partly owned by the South African government, is taking part with all its 20 companies.

South African deputy defence minister, Wyand Breytenbach, is attending the show to support Pretoria's push into the Gulf, where most states have embarked on massive plans to beef up their armies.

On Sunday, the Rooivalk drew applause as it went through its paces at the show here.

Rooivalk, of which four have been sold to the South African air force, is seen by military experts as a rival for the U.S. Apache helicopter, which is also on show.

It can operate round the clock and be used as anti-armour helicopter, close air support, long range transport helicopter escort, anti-air defence, battlefield air interdiction and armed reconnaissance.

Holtzhausen said Denel's arms sales peaked at 993 million dollars in 1992, of which 17 percent were exports and the rest were sales for the South African government. He said Denel's sales accounted for nearly 40 percent of the country's total arms deals.

Air Force Testing U.S., French, Russian Jets

NC0911055893 Paris AFP in English 2134 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Nov 8 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force pilots are test-flying U.S., French and Russian warplanes for possible purchases under a plan to bolster its air force, the army said.

"We have entered into the second stage (of the plan), in which UAE pilots are test-flying various aircraft, including the U.S. F- 15, F-16 and F-18, the Russian Sukhoy, the French Mirage 2000 and others," according to Colonel Khalid 'Abdallah, chief of operations and training.

"This stage is expected to end next year, after which we enter into the final phase of selecting what suits our requirements," he said in a statement on Sunday [7 November] at an international air show in this UAE port.

Sunday's statement was the first official announcement by the UAE that it was test flying Russian aircraft, which virtually do not exist in its air force and most other GCC armies.

Cash-strapped Russia is displaying 20 types of aircraft at the show and its officials have expressed readiness to sell any of them and set up joint ventures to ensure after-sale services.

The plan to bolster the air force was launched after the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Yemen

YSP Offers Formulas for Overcoming Crisis

PM0911113993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 93 p 4

[Lutfi Shatarah and Hammud Munsir report: "Socialist Party Presents Document on Yemeni Crisis"]

[Text] Aden, Sanaa—The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has promulgated a document on its view of "the situation in the country and the possibilities of a solution." It discussed the document at the Political Bureau meeting held yesterday and decided to present it later to members of the Central Committee and the other national forces, in order to exchange views on it and look for an acceptable formula so that the situation can be tackled, as the country has reached a historic turning point, in order to define the Yemeni state's character and the various domestic and foreign policies.

The document deals with the 18 points proposed by the YSP, the 19 points proposed by the General People's Congress [GPC], and the 16 points proposed by the bloc comprising the opposition parties and independent national figures, in the light of the nonexistence of any signs of a breakthrough in the crisis—which opened the door to a number of alternative plans.

Among the alternatives raised are a number of questions about ways of achieving a breakthrough in the crisis and whether this would be achievable by the offering of concessions and acceptable peaceful solutions by all parties, or through the other alternatives—like a federation or a confederation—proposed in November 1989, when the Yemeni people proposed the merger plan, which was indeed implemented. But the average Yemeni started to talk about these alternatives "after the merger experienced numerous difficulties and became a tragedy for everyone."

The YSP's document begins by referring to the tasks which were not fully achievable during the transitional period, which ended with the parliamentary elections on 27 April. They included replacing all partition laws by unionist laws, merging the education systems and standardizing curricula, unifying all government departments and civilian and military organs, and restoring administrative division.

The document says that the most negative aspect of the transitional period is a failure to merge and unify the Armed Forces, in addition to the continuation of conflicting practices, "which have (also) targeted the positive aspects over which no one disagrees (like unity), first and foremost security and stability," after the armed civilians' entry into Aden. The document describes this as "an act against and hostile toward unity, regardless of the intentions of those who committed it." This is in addition to the continuation of the "abolition mentality" against the other party and its achievements.

The documents provides examples of these practices which have a negative impact. They are:

1. The spread of the economic military establishment in the southern governorates at the expense of the domestic trade company, which has been prevented from opening branches in the northern governorates.
2. The replacement of the dinar by the riyal and backtracking on using a new currency.
3. The replacement of officials of financial facilities in the southern and eastern governorates by people from northern governorates immediately after the announcement of the union.
4. The termination of local councils in the south while insisting on continuing the similar councils in the northern governorates.
5. The denial to the Yemen Air company (al-yamda) [as transliterated] of the freedom to fly in Sanaa, while the Yemeni Airlines company—only half of which is owned by the state—enjoys complete freedom in Yemen; and also the besieging of the port of Aden and Aden airport and attacks the Yemeni National Bank at the local and international level.
6. The abolition of state security in the south and the rebuilding of national security in the north and its extension to the southern and eastern governorates.
7. Repeated arbitrariness in student examinations and results in the southern governorates.
8. The use of double standards in the Civil Service Ministry and the Finance Ministry against YSP members, forcing them to leave.
9. The application of "discipline and humiliation" against anyone who belongs to the party in the northern governorates.
10. Procrastination with regard to compensating farmers in the southern and eastern governorates with a view to instigating them to fight the party.
11. The use of harsher measures against citizens of the southern governorates.
12. The emergence of a difficult situation in the southern governorates after the disappearance of security and stability and the abolition of free medical treatment and provision of housing and employment and fixed prices to the extent that citizens have begun to believe that the cause of all this is unity and the YSP's abandonment of them.

The document offers several proposals to tackle "the crisis conditions," first and foremost eliminating the negative measures which have harmed unity, namely by abolishing the economic military establishment and including it in the public sector, using a new unified currency, halting all "disciplinary" practices against the party's members and supporters, and immediately compensating farmers and protecting their livelihood.

The document believes that constitutional reforms should include creating conditions that remove fears of annexation or separation, proceeding from the premise that unity was achieved between two different regimes which engaged in dialogue and conflict for over 18 years before the achievement of unity. And that there should be acceptance of the need for local government, the consultative council, and the national assembly as a guarantee for democracy and balanced powers.

The documents also stipulated that the parliamentary elections should be based on proportional representation, in order to guarantee the political value of the voters and represent all the political forces in the parliament. And that attention should be paid to improving productivity and achieving development on the basis of private management, while defining the state's duties in the economic sphere so as not to disrupt the justice of distribution and to protect consumers.

The document urged the adoption of the presidential system so as to reflect the character of Yemeni unity on the basis of the unity agreement. And that the law should determine the method of nominating and electing the president, provided a general people's referendum is conducted on all these constitutional reforms after their endorsement by the parliament.

The YSP document emphasizes the need for the state to restore its control by providing security and stability, bringing to trial all suspects in political assassination incidents and bombing incidents, regulating the security services' work, implementing the firearms law, and tackling tribal revenge issues by achieving comprehensive national reconciliation.

The document urges avoiding the failure of the state's accountability organ in the civilian and military spheres during the transitional period, as it has become necessary to adopt the system that prevailed in the south before unity, complete building the organs concerned with protecting legitimacy, and spread them throughout the country.

The document emphasizes the need to merge the Armed Forces, describing this as "a national responsibility." And to redistribute military cadres on the basis of scientific qualifications, experience, and seniority. And to merge the Republican Guards with some southern units in accordance with the unity agreements...in order to perpetuate national unity.

Human Rights Center Issues Report on Chemical Attack

NC0811174593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The Archives Center for Human Rights in Iraq has prepared a detailed report on tyrant Saddam regime's military assault on the (Abu Zirgi) marshland in the (Garmat 'Ali) area in al-Basrah Governorate and nearby areas in late September. The center cites eyewitnesses who were present during the early stages of the assault. It also compared documented reports from various sources to describe exactly how the assault occurred. The center expressed its readiness to submit information and present the eyewitnesses who agreed to give evidence before any party interested in finding out the facts. The report described in detail the results of the fact-finding team, the military operation, and the attackers' use of banned chemical weapons. The report also noted the effects of the use of chemical weapons and what is being circulated among various sectors of the Iraqi people about the results of the attack. The report also provided three maps.

'Regime's Lies' on Use of Chemical Weapons Viewed

NC0811204793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Saddam's authorities finally denied their use of chemical weapons [CW] against the marshlands of southern Iraq. This followed two weeks of silence since the news of the crime spread and inhabitants of the area in question described the regime's use of mortar shells containing poison gases in bombarding their area.

Iraq's criminal authorities prefer to keep quite about the crimes and atrocities committed by the security and armed forces, even if these were on the scale committed in Halabjah. Only when the stench of the crime becomes unbearable and its news travels near and far do the authorities deign to present their customary denial of the incident, or blame it on someone else.

Now that the CW reports are a matter of UN interest, now that the United Nations has ordered an investigation into the reports and expressed its readiness to send a fact-finding team to investigate claims of the use of CW in the (Abu-Zirqi) marshland in al-Basrah Governorate, the regime has finally denied the reports.

The regime also accused the United Nations of bias in its effort to investigate the matter. However, the United Nations has been completely unbiased in addressing the issue. It still requests more evidence of the use of CW weapons in the area.

What is particularly suspicious is the angry posture assumed by the regime. This posture actually strengthens the accusations against it. Had it been innocent, the regime could have welcomed the mission of the fact-finding committee. Such a committee could then visit the area in question, investigate the situation firsthand, and pronounce a verdict. The regime should have offered to cooperate with the committee.

However, the regime will not do that. If the past is anything to go by, it will place repeated obstacles before the committee and try to distort the facts. Therefore, any such committee should take every possible precaution against the regime's lies. It should choose its own method of operation and follow it persistently until the truth is revealed. There are both mounting evidence and compelling statistics concerning the regime's use of CW in a clearly-defined geographical area.

It is worth noting that the regime, since the discovery of its crime in the (Abu-Zirqi) marshland, has managed to hide most of the traces of its crime. Soldiers killed by CW have been buried in secret locations and some corpses have been burned.

Our compatriots in Iraq, those with relatives who died in this tragedy, should ask the regime about the whereabouts of their sons and the nature of their fate. The relatives of the missing should pass on any information they have to the international fact-finding committee, if it goes ahead with its task. If unable to do that, these relatives should write to the international humanitarian organizations, telling them what they know. If possible, they should appear before the international investigators, even outside Iraq. They should bring any of the abundant documents or evidence they have to public knowledge.

U.S., UN Silence on Chemical Attacks 'Astonishing'

NC0611172093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] How can the Iraqi regime remove the traces of its barbaric feet from the (Abu Zirqi) marshland, the scene of the crime? Sources in the Islamic Iraqi opposition say that the regime is now engaged in an infamous operation to wipe out the aftermath of its chemical attack against our kinsfolk in the (Abu Zirqi) marshland. Among other measures, the regime is spraying the region with chemicals capable of concealing traces of chemical weapons or transforming them into other chemical substances. The regime has also burned and buried corpses in mass graves, buried dead animals, and prevented people from leaving the marshlands so that information cannot be leaked.

But we must pause to meditate on the dimensions and secrets of this operation. Although many international and media quarters have ascertained and documented information about the chemical attack, we cannot be anything but skeptical about the regime's current measures. Our skepticism is based on a number of noteworthy observations:

First, the regime launched the chemical attack while the UN inspection teams were busy searching for weapons of mass destruction. More than 50 experts, using three helicopters and dozens of pieces of highly sensitive equipment, were cruising Iraq from north to south. Is it conceivable that these experts and this equipment failed to detect the lethal gases? They must have sensed the gases and their rotten smell, and it is strange and astonishing that they kept the silence of the deaf devil.

Second, eyewitness testified to some international figures that the chemical attack was carried out while the U.S. aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone were flying so low that pilots could see the white chemical smoke with their eyes, without equipment, laboratories, or specimens. If the American planes are blind, unable to see the regime's tanks, heavy artillery, and military corps that besiege the marshlands, are they also unable to see the massive poison caused by the lethal gases with which the regime is eliminating all forms of life in the marshlands?

Third, while the international media are conveying horrible scenes about the catastrophe of the (Abu Zirqi) marshland and the genocide against its inhabitants, the international agencies entrusted to remove the regime's weapons of mass destruction remain completely silent under the pretext that they have no evidence. What sort of evidence do they want? If they want victims, then the printed and visual media are full of their pictures. If they want land, water, and a dead environment, then these are there for them to see. They do not lack the means, equipment, and laboratories, so what are they waiting for?

Finally, we believe that the regime does not need to conceal its crime and trouble itself with removing the traces as long as it has secured the silence of international forums and has obtained their deaf ears. It practices these horrible acts feeling completely safe and reassured. It is killing, burning, destroying, and spreading its poison to suppress the breath of life or make it the way its evil soul wishes—gloomy and dark.

Iran Accused of Spreading Chemical Weapons Use Lie

*JN0611104793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
6 Nov 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH denounces the recent lie by the Tehran rulers about the use of chemical weapons in southern Iraq, lies Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, reiterated in his statements.

In its editorial today by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, the paper says that they carry out this odious but naive game every two months when it is time for the UN Security Council to discuss the question of lifting the sanctions.

Although Ekeus officially adopts a neutral stand, he seems to have lost touch with reality and has become a toy that the ill-winds of the venomenous vipers in the East and the West manipulate because no sooner does he hear any source affirm that Iraq has done this or that than he rushes to make a statement giving credence to these accusations, thus paving the way for the snake charmers in Washington and their vipers everywhere to prepare the world for accepting the perpetuation of the blockade.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the Iranian regime's recent lie has been snatched by the Zionist and U.S. vipers working under the name of the human rights commitees to cast doubt about the need to lift the blockade and to call for maintaining it.

The paper adds that the fabrication of the story of the use of chemical weapons is meant to influence the UN Security Council and confuse those members who have changed their minds and intend to ask that the blockade be lifted since Iraq has completely fulfilled its commitments and no one can any longer forcefully claim that the blockade should be maintained except the three snake charmers and their vipers in Washington, London, and Tel Aviv.

The paper affirms that the ill-winds blow on us from the East, gorged with the venom of the vipers whose hatred has become so engrained in them as to become a second skin, to kill all that they can find on their way so that the Iraqis may die from starvation and diseases.

Paper Deplores 'Rumors' of Chemical Weapons Use

*JN0711095693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT
7 Nov 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—In an article today, AL-THAWRAH has urged the United Nations to move forward until it reaches a decision to lift the unjust embargo against the Iraqi people, after Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations.

The paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward Resolution 687. Therefore, the unjust embargo should be lifted now by implementing Paragraph 22 of this resolution.

The paper notes the tendentious allegations against Iraq saying: Such allegations are repeated whenever the Security Council is about to meet to consider lifting the unfair embargo.

The paper says the parties behind these attempts are well known. It is a shame, however, that any international side should be carried away by tendentious, criminal allegations, similar to the allegations being propagated nowadays.

The paper adds that only a few days ago, the United Nations ascertained that there are no banned materials in Iraq, including chemical weapons.

AL-THAWRAH goes on: We have grown accustomed to hearing the repeated calls for implementing international resolutions, democracy, human rights, and releasing Kuwaiti prisoners. These calls are heard every two months just before the Security Council is about to discuss lifting the sanctions.

The paper concludes: Those who repeat these calls are well known and their aims are also known. They are the American imperialists, the British, the al-Sabah family, and the henchmen of the Iranian regime.

The paper highlights the assertions of the leader of the 63d UN inspection team that the Iraqi authorities have shown full cooperation with the team during its month-long mission which uncovered no banned materials.

The paper asks: How is it being said then that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the south, and who propagated such tendentious, sick, and hostile rumors?

Intelligence Officer Said To Join European Mission

NC0811205993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Shakir Khujah, a well-known intelligence officer in the Iraqi regime, has joined the Iraqi delegation to a European mission under the cover of third secretary. He has been assigned the task of following up activities of the Iraqi opposition and its members. It is worth noting that the Iraqi delegation to the European mission is headed by Muhammad al-Duri, brother of Sabri al-Duri, one of the most ghastly criminals in the Iraqi regime's intelligence service.

A number of Iraqi intelligence officers established a headquarters in Amman under cover of a trade office to receive reports from the Iraqi regime's agents abroad and to consolidate efforts against opposition activities worldwide.

National Assembly Amends Criminal, Civil Laws

JN0711200393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The Iraqi National Assembly today continued the meetings of its second session, the Mother of Battles session, under Ghanim 'Aziz, the National Assembly's acting speaker.

In today's session, the Assembly discussed a number of legal issues presented to it, including proposals to amend certain laws and decrees issued by the Revolution Command Council, as well as amendments to other laws including the law on criminal trial procedures. Following thorough discussions, the Assembly unanimously agreed to amend nine articles concerning criminal trials and an article concerning the civil status law. It also approved the annulment of Law No. 51 of 1987. These amendments will be referred to the concerned parties for study and ratification.

The new amendments are designed to reconcile the developments that Iraq is witnessing in the current phase, and to introduce laws that conform to the extraordinary circumstances of the country.

Trade Minister Explains Cabinet Decision on Imports

JN0811202593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Minister of Trade Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has explained that the cabinet's decision announced yesterday and published in local dailies today with regard to the commodities announced does not authorize imports of new commodities.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, the minister added that the decision revokes customs restrictions, import licensing, customs duty, and national defense tax on the commodities announced to cut back on administrative and customs restrictions on imports of unbanned commodities.

The trade minister said that what was new about the decision is that it authorizes clothes imports for children up to 12 years old, whereas only clothes imports for children one year old were previously authorized.

Saddam Orders Cash Awards to Journalists, Poets

JN0511181193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 6 million dinars as annual contributions to journalists and folk poets in Iraq.

This generous gift from our beloved leader is one example of his excellency's favors to conscientious writers and the mujahidin in the areas of journalism and media and the benevolent voices that have sung their love for the homeland and leader of the Arabs.

Journalists Thank Saddam

JN0511203793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 93

["Text" of cable from the Iraqi Journalists Association to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God take good care of him: On behalf of our association and all its affiliated members, we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to Your Excellency for the generous allocation of 6 million dinars for journalists and folk poets. This gesture marks a new form of support for a striving section of the population that gave much of itself during the glorious al-Qadisiyah of Saddam and the immortal Mother of Battles and stood fast and unswervingly behind your leadership as you took a determined stand against the forces of evil and aggression.

This fresh act of generosity lengthens the list of your great gifts to intellectuals, artists, media people, and other sectors of the Iraqi population. It amounts to a new incentive for all of them to continue the sacred jihad behind Your Excellency for a dignified, strong, and independent Iraq.

We promise that this generous act shall be a debt to Your Excellency that can only be repaid by increased loyalty to the Iraq of the great Saddam Husayn and continued jihad and construction.

On this happy occasion, we reiterate to Your Excellency that our pens are not mere ink but weapons on the battlefield to raise morale and hold banners high and devastate the strengths of the enemies.

May God take good care of you and give you further strength and resolve to carry on the jihad for the sake of the unity, dignity, and advancement of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

Communist Party Congress Supports Federalism

PM0411140693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p6

['Adnan Husayn report: "Iraqi Communist Party Supports Federalism, Replaces Half Its Leadership Members"]

[Text] London—The Iraqi Communist Party has followed the example of other similar Marxist parties which in recent years changed their leaderships and ideologies after the collapse of the Soviet Union. At a press conference held in the town of Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan at the end of its fifth congress, the first since 1985, the party replaced more than half the Central Committee members and abandoned Leninism but "the party continued to adhere to Marxism as an ideological line and guide in the struggle to achieve its objectives and fulfill its socialist choice." In the fifties and sixties it was the strongest political party in Iraq. It and the Sudanese Communist Party were the two biggest communist movements in the Arab region.

A statement issued by the congress, held in the last two weeks of October, said that the congress elected "a new Central Committee with more than half total number of members being new," and that it elected Hamid Majid Musa as its secretary, replacing former secretary 'Aziz Muhammad.

The new secretary is an Arab from al-Hillah in central Iraq. He is 48 years old and a petroleum economics specialist. At the press conference, the former secretary, a Kurd who had been the party's secretary since 1965, said that he did not run for the new Central Committee elections because he wanted "to open the way for other comrades." He emphasized that he would continue to work within the party, "placing myself at the disposal of its new leadership." Noticeably absent from the new leadership was Fakhri Karim, one of the strongest members of the former Political Bureau and official responsible for the party's foreign relations. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from communist sources who attended the conference that most of the new Central Committee members are in their fifties or sixties and are university graduates.

The statement blamed "the dictatorial regime's policies, bestial terror campaigns, aggressive wars, disregard for people's lives and basic rights, and squandering of national wealth" for the deteriorating situation in Iraq. It called for an end to the international economic blockade against Iraq "which has made our people's suffering reach unbearable dimensions." It noted that the "blockade has not much harmed the regime itself" which "uses its continuation as an excuse to conceal its own direct and fundamental responsibility for the plight of millions and to divert the anger of these millions from the regime itself." It urged the supply of food and medicines "directly to the needy through the UN agencies concerned and humanitarian organizations." The statement expressed support for the Kurdish call for a federal system in Iraq, seeing it as "a demand in harmony with the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kurdistan within the framework of the Iraqi Republic." It also said that the congress gave its Kurdish branch independence. That is its strongest branch and is represented in the Kurdish local government.

Pro-Regime Kurdish Leader Addresses Council Session

JN0711190693 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—Mr. Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, chairman of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomy Rule strongly attacked the imperialist attempts to spark off ethnic dispute for achieving their interests and presence in the region.

Addressing the Council Autumn session, Mr. Ahmad urged the Kurds of Iraq to confront those responsible for the impasse in north Iraq and said that it was high time to put an end to terrorism and persecution and the foreign intervention in our land.

The Kurdish leader also called for confronting agents in the area who support the foreigner as an alternative to the commitment to the homeland and people.

The Kurdish leader further stressed the importance of commitment to the homeland integrity and growth.

Mr. Ahmad in his address, further reviewed the tragic situation of the Kurdish people in north Iraq in the shade of the presence of foreign troops and the cooperation of the sabotage cliques and agents with the Zionist and imperialist circles in the region.

He also reviewed the looting carried out by saboteurs of public property and homes of people and selling them to the foreigners in addition to the hardships faced by the region because of the ongoing oppressive embargo imposed on the Iraq people.

Opposition Group Claims Clerics Being Forced Out

NC0711200093 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government is refusing to renew the residence permits of foreign religious scholars and clerics in order to force them to leave the country, an Iraqi Shia opposition group said here Sunday [7 November].

The Iranian-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said Iranians living in the Shia holy city of al-Najaf in southern Iraq were particular targets of the Iraqi Government's policy.

Shia religious scholars have studied at al-Najaf's Islamic institutions for nearly ten centuries.

Ambassador Meets German Foreign Minister in Amman

JN0511073093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned from informed diplomatic sources that a meeting was held yesterday between German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who is now on an official visit to Jordan, and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador in Amman. The meeting took place at the German foreign minister's residence.

The meeting was attended for the German side by Dr. Peter Russel [name as published], director of the Middle East Department at the German Foreign Ministry; the director general of the Political Affairs Department; and the German ambassador in Amman.

Continued U.S. Embargo Against Cuba Denounced

JN0611105293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the U.S. Administration's insistence on maintaining the 32-year-old embargo against Cuba, in spite of a UN majority vote to lift it.

In a commentary today, the paper ridicules a statement by a U.S. Administration official that his country will not lift the Cuba embargo until President Castro's government adopts "democratic struggle." The paper says "democratic struggle," in the U.S. book, means complete surrender to the United States and blind obedience to it.

The paper adds that "democratic struggle" also means, for the United States, pillaging the resources of other nations and funneling financial resources toward serving U.S. investments and banks. The United States regards democracy as military force to be used for aggression, just like what happened to Iraq.

The paper asserts that the U.S. concept of "democratic struggle" is similar to the way thieves think of possessions and wealth.

The paper concludes: Cuba, which welcomed a draft by other nations to lift the U.S. embargo, thinks of this question as one of sovereignty and national decision. As for Iraq, it is a question of patience, steadfastness, and not surrendering to the U.S. bludgeon.

Recent U.S. Air Activity Protested to UN

JN0811140193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over violations of the Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and harassment.

A protest memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali has said that the aggressive U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace during period 25 October-2 November 1993. The memorandum said the U.S. aircraft conducted 399 hostile sorties over several cities in the northern and southern regions during this period.

Allied Aircraft Use of Facilities Protested to League

JN0811140393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League over the facilities being offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said on Monday and Tuesday, 1 and 2 November, the U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and conducted 63 hostile sorties. The letter noted that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on No-Confidence Motion

TA0811160293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1458 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Address by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, at the Knesset plenum in response to the opposition's no-confidence motion over the state of security in the territories—live; Rabin is repeatedly interrupted by heckling and catcalls from the floor]

[Text] Mr. Knesset Speaker, honorable Knesset Members: The history of the State of Israel is replete with bitter moments and beautiful hours. We have experienced both ups and downs. We are now in the midst of a difficult moment, although it contains hope as well. Yesterday Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] assassins attacked an Israeli car. Their murderous gunfire killed a resident of Kfar Darom, Avraham 'Ayubi [hecklers remind him that the victim's name was Efrayim] and wounded former Knesset Member Rabbi Hayim Druckman. I presume the entire nation, the Knesset, and the government commiserate with the bereaved family and wish Hayim Druckman a speedy recovery.

Today our hearts go out to the families that have lost loved ones—soldiers and civilians—in murderous terrorist attacks. I believe that this entire house—its right-wing and left-wing, religious and secular, Jewish and Arab factions—is united in sympathy for the grief of these families and in extending wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

Knesset Members, for 100 years we have fought for the right to live in peace, calm, and quiet in this place. For 100 years, their answer has been terrorist attacks and murder. We have hardly had one quiet day. In an attempt to break this vicious circle of death, in an attempt to stop this eternal bloodshed, we took a step a few weeks ago that we believe and trust will lead us and our Palestinian neighbors to peaceful coexistence. We did not do it lightly or impulsively, but despite our doubts, we recognized the PLO as the Palestinians' representative in negotiations on terms familiar to all. The first and foremost of these terms was the cessation of terror and violence, and indeed, not a single terrorist action has been perpetrated by PLO-Tunis, which is controlled by Fatah, since 13 September.

We offered them self-government in accordance with the format which in our understanding formed the basis of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. We believed then, and we still believe today that we did the right thing for our children and grandchildren, even if we have to live through a difficult, painful, and rough period of transition. We are doing all this for the next generations on both sides of the barrier, for the sake of peace to come.

Knesset Members, we have no intention of saying anything but the truth. The peace effort does not embrace all Arab countries and all terrorist organizations. The latter primarily includes Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other rejectionist organizations. We—you—know that some Arab countries and some Palestinian and Arab terrorist organizations have made it their goal to annihilate the State of Israel, and they resort to every means and path in their quest to harm us, the inhabitants of this country. The countries and organizations that have embraced the goal of harming the peacemaking process—from Iran down to Hamas—are pursuing their path of carnage and destruction.

Referring to fatalities and casualties in terms of figures and statistics is difficult. Each number, each statistical graph represents a person, a father of a family, a husband, a son, a brother, a soldier, or a settler who settled in this country and lived his life the way he wanted it—until found by the assassins' knives or the peace foes' bullets. To sum up this blood balance since the beginning of September up to yesterday: Six civilians and six soldiers were killed by terrorist organizations and other terrorists; the data includes the security zone in Lebanon, where not a single soldier was killed during this period. During the same period, 15 civilians and 57 soldiers were injured. We are paying a heavy price in blood for our right to live here and, clenching our teeth, we continue building and dreaming of peace.

Knesset Members, during the year which preceded the signing of the agreement of principles with the PLO and since the signing, we have taken a series of most significant steps aimed at ensuring security in the State of Israel, in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We expelled hundreds of Hamas activists beyond the border—albeit for a limited time. [Rabin then responds to hecklers] I wish to remind you that the previous government did not dare to deport a single person from the time of the Madrid conference up to the establishment of this government led by me.

Over seven months ago, we imposed a closure which separated the Palestinians in the territories from the sovereign territory of the State of Israel, including reunited Jerusalem. This greatly enhanced the personal security of the majority of the inhabitants of the State of Israel regardless of their religion or affiliation. We took and are taking resolute and iron-handed action against the Hizballah terrorists in Lebanon, at the same time never relinquishing our pursuit of wanted terrorists in Gaza camps and in Nabulus and Janin alleys.

We know that these drastic measures have inflicted serious blows to the terrorist organizations. The number of wanted men has been reduced by 62 since September 1993. Even today, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and antitank guns were employed during the pursuit of an armed fugitive in the Hebron area. The fugitive, who had tried to resist, was killed with his weapon next to him.

Knesset Members, the effort to halt the terrorist organizations—and today this category includes only those terrorist organizations which have declared their intention to murder Israelis and to murder peace.... [changes thought] Those who are negotiating an interim arrangement with us have not perpetrated any terrorist operations since the Washington signing. [Rabin then responds to hecklers] All your stories will do you no good; this is the reality.

Standing at this podium, I feel a profound duty to express my gratitude to the IDF, the Shin Bet, the Israel Police, the Border Police, and all others who toil day and night in defense of the inhabitants of Tel Aviv and Netanya, Elqana and Qarney Shomron, the Qatif Bloc and the Lebanese border. They are the ones who bear the brunt of the security burden, and they are the ones who sacrifice their lives and their bodies while performing this task.

We use many troops to safeguard security and public order in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It is no mean job; it takes its toll on people's bodies and souls. Most of the time of the soldiers, the Shin Bet, and the policemen is devoted to hunting assassins. Today the assassins are the enemies of peace, who are knocking on our door today.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset Members: The residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip share the battlefront with IDF soldiers, policemen, and the nameless men of the Shin Bet. The main goal of the foes of peace is to make life unbearable for the inhabitants of the State of Israel in general and those residing in the territories in particular, and to make our lives and the lives of the inhabitants of the territories excruciating. They want to sow confusion, despondence, and rifts among the civilian population of the State of Israel. The Israelis will not tolerate attacks on soldiers and civilians, wherever they take place. The pain, as well as the rage, are understandable. Yet, unlike our enemies, we have always shown restraint. Clenching our teeth, we move on; clenching our fists, we move on. I am calling on those who live in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to follow the path we have trod for 100 years of terror. We buried our dead, bit our lips, and went on. We know—I know—that incitement is a path chosen by a minority of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. A vast majority wants a life of peace, security, and good neighborliness. I am calling on the people in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip to stop the revenge seekers and the peace disturbers, in order to prevent the escalation of a disorder which will harm us. The security forces, for their part, have been instructed to use every legal means at their disposal to prevent terror while also enforcing law and order on the Jewish inhabitants.

Knesset Members, the Declaration of Principles with the PLO spoke of security for settlements, inhabitants, and Israelis, as well as external security on the confrontation lines, the borders, the coast, in the air. This is the cornerstone of all the discussions and decisions. Right now we are in the midst of a certain crisis in our negotiations with the Palestinians, and it has arisen solely because of security issues. We will continue insisting on the security issue; we will not compromise one iota. We have said as much, and I will reiterate: We will insist on the subsistence of all the settlements [qiyum kol hayeshuvim]; we will insist on Israel's sweeping responsibility for the security of the inhabitants of settlements, for the security of Israelis driving on roads, for external security. All these are commitments we have made, and we will adhere to them.

While waging an uncompromising war on terror and its messengers, we are continuing the passage to peace. [Rabin then replies to hecklers] More than you ever did! Despite the hiatus in discussions, the past and the future crises, we intend to adhere to all our commitments both to peace and to security, and we intend to attain an agreement with the Palestinians. I would like to note with satisfaction that as a result of this move in our quest for peace, we have been receiving signals—even more than signals—from other possible partners in the Arab world, in Arab countries. We will pursue this course: We will fight terror and talk peace at the same time.

Knesset Members, despite the intimidation, despite the question marks, despite the catcalls, we will continue, we will strive and toil until we reach the day when peace is attained, arrangements are signed, and bloodshed vanishes.

I am asking the plenum to strike the no-confidence motion off the agenda.

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions

TA0811182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset tonight defeated the four no-confidence motions submitted by opposition factions. Fifty seven Knesset members [MK's] voted against the motions, while 46 voted in support. There were no abstentions.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that two of the four United Torah Jewry MK's were absent during the ballot, as were five of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK's.

Rabin To Wait on Request for U.S. Aid for Redeployment

TA0911111993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has decided that during his upcoming visit to the United States he will not request special financial aid for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories. This was reported by sources in his bureau. Political sources have suggested that Israel ask the

United States for $300-500 million to finance the redeployment. This sum will also compensate Israel for the $437- million cut in the U.S. loan guarantees.

Rabin decided that presenting the request at this time would be premature, because the cost of the IDF redeployment in the territories is not clear yet. The defense establishment has not made detailed calculations of the redeployment costs, which could serve as the basis for a request for U.S. aid, and the issue was not raised in the discussion Rabin held with the IDF and Defense Ministry heads in preparation for his tour.

The special request for military aid Rabin will present to the U.S. Administration will focus on the existing channels of receiving stock and surplus equipment from the U.S. Army and keeping ammunition in U.S. emergency storage in Israel. [passage omitted]

In his discussions with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Rabin will also raise the issue of the renewed escalation in south Lebanon. A defense source estimated that Israel has been refraining from retaliating for the recurring terrorist attacks and shellings in south Lebanon in order not to harm the success of Rabin's U.S. visit. [passage omitted]

Peres on Jordanian Election Results, Tripartite Summit

TA0911074593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on 9 November—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Earlier this morning we spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and asked him whether the results of the elections in Jordan bring the signing of a separate peace agreement with Israel closer than ever.

[Peres] I think the king has done two things: One, he accelerated the process of democratization in Jordan, and we should welcome this. In my opinion, any progress toward democracy also constitutes progress toward peace. Two, despite all the bleak prophecies, it has emerged that the Islamic wave was somewhat curbed. I think the king said on television yesterday that he is determined to proceed toward peace.

[Dan] The king also said on television yesterday that he does not deny or confirm the meeting with you. Is this the first stage toward making public the decisions adopted in your nine-hour meeting?

[Peres] Who am I to add anything to or subtract from the king's statement? I assume that he weighs every word he uses. I want to draw your attention, however, to public meetings. I do not know why everybody is so thrilled about secrecy. I held a public, televised meeting with Crown Prince Hasan at the White House. We publicly decided to establish a joint Jordanian-American-Israeli committee to deal with economic issues. Apparently, people like to talk about secret things, but we must also pay attention to public things.

[Friedman] Yesterday you said that we can expect an American-Israeli-Jordanian summit meeting soon.

[Peres] I did not talk about a summit meeting; I spoke about a meeting at the appropriate level. I think, however, that a high-level meeting is indeed called for. Look, we have first-rate geographic assets located between the southern part of Lake Tiberias and the northern part of the Red Sea. These assets can constitute fortifications and a confrontation line, but they can also serve as an inexhaustible source of wonderful cooperation between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

[Friedman] Yesterday you said that the political outline of the arrangement is a confederation with a tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian roof and a floor consisting of Jordan and the Palestinians. What did you mean?

[Peres] I said that its economic roof is tripartite and its political floor is made of two parties. I drew a distinction between economic cooperation and the long-term political solution. Now we can start building the roof or the floor; it does not make any difference....

[Friedman, interrupting] Is it not preferable to start from the bottom, because if we start with the roof it will collapse?

[Peres] Well, we can change the metaphor and speak about a tripartite floor and a roof made of two parties; it makes no difference.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, do you think that the setback suffered by the Muslim forces in Jordan was caused by the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles? Do you believe that the nationalist forces are defeating the fundamentalist forces?

[Peres] I am not an expert on this issue, but in my opinion this is what happened: After the 300,000 refugees came from Kuwait to Jordan, a great outcry broke out there. Jordan was greatly concerned about an economic holocaust. What happened, to everyone's amazement, was that this development revived Jordan's economy, which demonstrated impressive growth last year. There is a great construction drive in Amman, as we can all see from film footage. The fundamentalists and extremists always thrive on deep economic crises.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, can I purchase a package tour to Jordan and Egypt?

[Peres] Are you so impatient?

[Friedman] Very much so. You have already visited there; I have not.

[Peres] Look, we will soon reach a Middle East in which everyone will be a welcome guest and not a hostage. I have always been an optimist, and I remain so.

[Dan] Thank you, Minister Peres.

Beilin Views Impact of Jordanian Elections on Talks

TA0911063393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Einstein] We heard this morning that the extreme Muslims suffered a setback in the elections in Jordan. Is this a good message for the peace process?

[Beilin] It is certainly not a bad thing. The weakening of the extremists could make things easier for the king in the upcoming moves and in anticipation of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. There are only a few problems in the path of such an agreement; we do not have significant territorial problems. If Husayn does not wait for another element in the Arab world, it will be possible to sign such an agreement within several months.

[Einstein] In the wake of the reports on the meeting between King Husayn and Foreign Minister Peres, the natural question is whether there are any chances of a public meeting between the king and our prime minister in the near future?

[Beilin] I hope so. After all, Crown Prince Hasan and Foreign Minister Peres held an open meeting in the United States only a short time ago. Following that meeting, an American-Jordanian-Israeli committee was established. I think the way is certainly open for such public meetings between the two sides at the highest levels.

[Einstein] Meanwhile, we have heard that some people in Amman have voiced dissatisfaction over the publicity given in Israel to the meeting between the foreign minister and the king. Could this publicity harm the continuation of the peace process?

[Beilin] I do not want to comment on the publicity and the dissatisfaction expressed. Altogether, however, we are dealing here with a relationship that has become more open over the last few years. We have stable and positive relations, and in the last two years, since the beginning of the negotiations in Washington, these relations have become even more open. I certainly believe, particularly in view of the election results, that there is room for accelerating this process. Such a process mainly means we are approaching a peace agreement and open relations between the two sides.

Settlers Block Roads, Disperse; IDF Wounds 3 Arabs

TA0911055793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Jewish residents of the Qatif Bloc earlier this morning blocked the Gaza-Khan Yunus road, threw rocks at Arab cars and did not allow them to pass. The demonstrators left a short while ago for morning prayers at Kfar Darom, where Efrayim Ayubi—who was murdered in a terrorist attack earlier this week—lived. Security forces have opened the road but are not allowing Arab vehicles through for fear of clashes between Jewish residents and Palestinians.

Dozens of right-wing supporters this morning also blocked the Tel Aviv-Ashdod highway, burning tires and preventing the passage of vehicles from Gaza. Police dispersed the demonstrators.

In the territories last night, three Palestinians were lightly wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire near Hebron. They were in a car which, according to the Army, refused to stop at a roadblock. They were evacuated to hospital in Bethlehem. The IDF is investigating.

In another incident, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Egged bus. No one was hurt. The attack took place on the Jerusalem-Hebron road, close to Solomon's Pools. The fire bomb exploded on the street. The IDF jeep accompanying the bus opened fire in the direction of the attackers and began widespread searches in the area.

Israeli Arab Killed in Gaza Strip 'Terror Attack'

TA0911092293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] An Israeli Arab from northern Israel was killed in a terror attack at the al-Shaja'iyah junction in the Gaza Strip this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that three masked men, two of them armed with pistols, commandeered a garbage-disposal truck, ordering its driver to get off. One of the terrorists drove the truck toward the al-Shaja'iyah junction, where it collided with an Israeli vehicle. The driver of the car died on the spot, while the terrorists escaped. The security forces launched searches to find them.

Peres Interviewed on Middle East Issues

AU0711134393 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 1 Nov 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Petr Janyska in Jerusalem; date not given: "We Are Open to Compromises"]

[Text] "We are saying to the Palestinians: Live your own life. We do not want to reign over you, nor to control you. We will responsibly support your government and help it achieve an economic success. Any political solution that is not supported economically is doomed to failure," said Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is a man who has been the main moving force behind the secret Israeli-Palestinian talks and who signed in Washington an agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

Shim'on Peres gave an interview in Jerusalem to a group of European reporters. A LIDOVE NOVINY reporter was one of them.

"Fundamentalism is the greatest danger that both Arabs and Israel have to face," Shim'on Peres says. "I have no prescription how to suppress fundamentalism. I consider fundamentalism to be a protest movement rather than a religion," Peres says. We must aim directly at its roots: poverty, the feeling of being discriminated, and unsatisfied needs."

[Janyska] Sir, what will the relations with Palestinians be in the future?

[Peres] We have a vision, but we have no map. Therefore, we cannot speak about a final solution. Let us postpone the talks on the final shape of our relations by five years, and let us begin creating the atmosphere of confidence. Both Arabs and Israelis are frustrated, they need more time.

Our future plans must deal with regions and the economy. Our defense must be adequate to the danger that our country is facing. Missiles pose a danger to us. Missiles do not respect borders. This is why security must be supra-governmental and regional.

[Janyska] Can you be more specific about your economic ideas?

[Peres] It is impossible to constantly use other peoples' money for reconstructing the Middle East. A modern economy is based on a correct economic structure, not on donations. To make the economy strong, you have to eliminate unproductive expenses. The arms race is responsible for much of our spending. The Middle East alone spends $50 billion every year. It would be a correct strategy if we could cut this spending and use this money for education.

Dictatorship is another negative factor. Such a regime wastes time, money, and energy, since it must support secret services and the army, and must create an atmosphere of fear, frustration, control, and censorship. This kills any enterprise at its very beginning.

Is there something positive that could be done? First, the geographic position should be taken advantage of. Water should be used to irrigate the soil, desert should be stopped from spreading, infrastructure should be built, and tourism should develop. Nature and history have created two interesting things in the Middle East. Tourism could create hundreds of thousands of jobs in all the countries here. By the way, Arabs are hospitable people, they are excellent people.

[Janyska] What will be the fate of Israeli settlements?

[Peres] I do not see any reason why the settlers could not stay where they are. There are Arab settlements on non-Arabic territories.

[Janyska] To what extent is the Palestine Liberation Organization able to manage their own people? How do you view the recent series of political murders of Palestinians?

[Peres] Palestinians will be able to manage the situation in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho. I have no doubts about it. They are facing a totally new era: So far, they have been an exile organization that issued declarations and now the time has come for them to make decisions, which is much more difficult.

Regarding the second question, we made a mistake. We tried to silence the weapons of the Palestinian minority, which minority was against the peace and agreement, and to protect the Palestinian majority at the same time. Neither of the two were we able to do well. When an Israeli shot a Palestinian, it was not perceived as a conflict between a policeman and a criminal, but as a violation of human rights. A solution would be to let Palestinians establish their own police and let them elect their own leaders. This is the idea behind the autonomy.

[Janyska] What prospects do the talks with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon have? Will it be possible to reach an agreement with Lebanon without Damascus?

[Peres] Lebanon cannot sign a treaty with us without Syria's consent. Syria, I hope, has decided to embark on the road of peace, but is still unable to draw conclusions from this decision. Al-Asad understands the changes that took place; however, he has been unable to adjust to the rules of a modern world

A successful outcome of the talks with the PLO is in our best interests. We are living in a triangle: Jordan-Palestine-Israel. The solution can be found only inside this triangle. Many Palestinian families are divided (some live on the left, the others on the right bank of the Jordan). This is why we have to have, apart from the treaty with the Palestinians, a treaty with Jordan.

An economic triangle would be a good beginning. The Palestinians, Jordanians, and us, share the most important geographic assets—the Jordan, the Dead Sea, and the Red Sea. The main difference between the state of war and peace lies in the fact that now we can use our opportunity for economic cooperation.

[Janyska] If Syria accedes to talks, will the Israeli public be willing to exchange territory for peace?

[Peres] Without security guarantees and without a clear peace plan, we will not be given the mandate to discuss the Golan Heights.

[Janyska] Will the Palestinians have their own currency?

[Peres] I do not see any need for it. Today's agreement mentions the Jordanian dinar and Israeli shekel. I am not ruling out a monetary union with Jordan. The important thing is to open the borders. Otherwise, we all will have to pay for it. We are living in a world where markets are more important than countries. The world is open, and whoever wants to close it is buying himself a return ticket to the last century.

[Janyska] Are you not afraid of a demographic boom of Palestinians, which could pose a danger to Israel?

[Peres] The are always dangers that can materialize in the future. Politics is like cooking: You can break an egg and make an omelet, but you cannot do it the other way around.

[Janyska] What is your view on Iran?

[Peres] Iran poses the greatest danger to the Middle East. They adopted the Machiavellian teaching according to which the end justifies the means. That is, lies and murders are allowed. We believe that Iran is financing terrorists, including the subversive groups in Egypt and North Africa. They are even working on a nuclear weapon. In their own interests, the Middle East and Europe should prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power controlled by madmen.

Nuclear Option Seen Enabling Ceding of Territories

TA0311163793 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 3 Nov 93 p 27

[Article by Shlomo Aharonson, professor of political science at Hebrew University in Jerusalem: "A Security Concept That Calls for Nuclear Weapons"]

[Excerpts] It is not surprising that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was integrated as an active element in the peace process. Obviously, the framework agreements and appendices signed in Washington in September need to be translated into deeds. However, as I see it, this is not the only reason—or even the most important one—for the Army's participation in the negotiations.

The IDF's top echelon, including the chief of staff, his deputy, and the head of the Planning Branch, are too busy—and rightly so—with the daily negotiations. These probably take up a lot of their time, which makes one wonder whether they have the time to discuss the long-term implications of the agreements with the PLO. [passage omitted]

The prime minister should ponder over the security implications of the agreement with the PLO, its implementation as an interim arrangement and as a test of the Palestinians' intentions.

He cannot satisfy himself with the "momentum" Peres is seeking to create with the help of the media, similar to the momentum created by Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan in the heyday of "perestroika." In those days people talked about "the end of history," an economy-governed world, and Eastern Europe becoming a commercial and democratic paradise. Where is that paradise today?

Unfathomable changes and upheavals are expected in the Middle East. That is why Israel's long-term security cannot be solely based on an Arab "perestroika" and why Rabin should not just reflect upon the security aspects of the interim agreement, but also about the security concept of the future permanent arrangement.

It is absolutely clear that Israel will in the future cede the territories and, as a result, will have to reassess its current security doctrine. The development of precision conventional weapons is determined by topographic conditions, accessibility of launching positions, and the enemy's deployment along the borders. Such weapons are very expensive and, although their development continues, the IDF is not very likely to start using them any time soon.

I believe a two-track security concept is called for by the ceding of the territories. The strategic track, recently embraced by Yitzhaq Rabin, is a nuclear option aimed at Arab populated areas and capitals.

The tactical track is a battlefield nuclear option to be used in the areas that will be vacated in the West Bank. Such an option would do away with the argument used by the Likud in its heyday that "one cannot use an atomic bomb against Qalqilyah." Based on this argument, the Likud sought to retain all areas of the West Bank because of their close proximity to Jewish population centers.

Tactical weapons with a limited radius of impact and short-lived radioactive effects that are capable of hitting enemy headquarters and concentrations of armored and infantry troops can also be used a few km away from metropolitan Tel Aviv.

Moreover, the political and psychological implications of a tactical nuclear option would be of the utmost importance. As in the case of NATO in Europe, such an option would tell the enemy from the outset that any war—to be fought within unfavorable borders in the face of their decisive conventional superiority—would be a nuclear one, which means that there would be no war at all. Such an option would enable a reduction to the minimum in the conventional IDF and enable the ceding of the territories. [passage omitted]

Claims of Fatah's Joining Hamas Called 'Distortion'

TA0811120493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer has reportedly told settlers that members of Fatah in the territories have been moving over to the ranks of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other organizations opposed to the peace process. However, the head of the

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ori Or, says the phenomenon is marginal. Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid says he has reliable information confirming that Fatah members have not been involved in any terrorist attacks since the Israeli-PLO agreement, signed on September 13th. [passage omitted]

The IDF spokesman has officially denied settlers' claims they were told by a senior IDF officer of major movements by Fatah members to the ranks of opposition terrorists movements. The IDF spokesman says the officer involved referred to only one case in his meeting with settlers when he said a gang of youths who had wanted to carry out a terrorist attack in the name of Fatah had been stopped by that organization and had then joined the ranks of the Democratic Front organization. The IDF spokesman said this was the only case referred to, and any other claims are a regrettable distortion of the facts.

EC Official Warns Against Membership 'Illusions'

TA0711171593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Nov 93 p 3

[Report by Efrayim Davidi]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Tel Aviv, EC Vice President Manuel Marin, who is in charge of contacts with Israel and the Middle East at EC headquarters in Brussels, said: "One should not entertain illusions. Israel will not become a full member of the EC."

Marin said that a new agreement should be signed between the EC and Israel regarding the latter's status inside the European framework, which is different than that of the EFTA [European Free Trade Association] countries or the north African states Marin stressed: "We will have to reach an agreement tailored to Israel's size, which will differ from the agreements signed with different countries or regions."

Marin is leaving Israel this morning following a short visit. During the visit he toured the Gaza Strip and met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Marin did not conceal his disappointment from the meeting with Rabin and said that "the prime minister does not put too much stock in whatever happens in Brussels." In an interview with DAVAR's correspondent prior to his departure, Marin described his meeting with Peres as "very good," noting that "Mr. Peres has very similar positions to his own on all issues pertaining to regional cooperation in the Middle East."

Marin added that Israel's standing in the EC framework must be improved, asserting that the new agreement must guarantee Israel full rights in defined fields, such as research and development. "We will make sure that in the field of hi-tech, Israel will enjoy equal status to other member status—such as Germany or France," Mr. Marin stressed.

The EC vice president added that he was aware of Israel's huge trade deficit in its commercial dealings with the EC. Marin said that "Israel could improve its situation by exporting new technologies," but that "Israel could not reduce its deficit by exporting oranges."

Marin will meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow at EC headquarters in Brussels. As for this meeting, Marin said: "We support closer economic ties between Israelis and Palestinians. Without economic ties between all the parties, there will be no peace. We are expecting to meet with 'Arafat and hope that he will present some economic projects that we can participate in."

Yesterday, Marin toured the Gaza Strip and visited a construction project in the southern part of the Strip. "The importance of the project lies in the successful planning and construction of 300 housing units by Palestinian engineers, construction workers, and foremen," Marin said. We will now move on to the second stage in which 3,000 units will be established," he added.

Marin reported that in the first stage, EC efforts would focus on the Gaza Strip, with three major goals in mind: upgrading and refurbishing the infrastructure of Gaza city, expanding residential construction projects for residents of the refugee camps, and establishing a large Palestinian university that would eventually become the main Palestinian university in the territories.

"We are the most active element as far as economic aid to the territories goes," Marin said. "We have contributed much more money than the United States, Japan, or the Arab countries," Marin clarified. The scope of the investments total approximately 500 million European Currency Units, which are roughly $600 million.

As for his position regarding the Arab boycott of Israel, Marin pointed out: "We have stressed our vehement opposition to the Arab boycott on numerous occasions. Following the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel in Washington, we reiterated our position to the Arab countries. Especially now, in order to buttress the peace, the Arab boycott must be immediately revoked."

Iraqi Infiltrators Remanded in Elat Court

TA0711171293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Two Iraqis who infiltrated into Israel four days ago were remanded today in the Elat Magistrate's Court. The infiltration was spotted last Tuesday night, and after a chase the two were caught near Kibbutz Elot. Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports the court remanded them for four days and demanded that the police file a charge sheet against them during this period.

Spain's King Juan Carlos Arrives on 3-Day Visit

TA0811142793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Spain's King Juan Carlos I and his wife, Queen Sofia, arrived on a three-day state visit to Israel this afternoon. They were received by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that King Juan Carlos was driven to Jerusalem from Ben-Gurion Airport, and a reception in his honor will be held at Rose Garden in a few minutes.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the president, the Knesset speaker, the prime minister, other ministers, Supreme Court judges, and chief religious clerics are waiting in the Rose Garden to welcome the king.

After the ceremony, President Weizman will accompany the king to a ceremony on Mount Herzl, after which the king will lay wreaths at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

In the course of the visit, the king will address the Knesset plenum, meet with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, and tour holy Christian sites. The foreign ministers of Spain and Israel will sign five economic agreements and a cultural agreement.

Meets With Rabin, Peres, Palestinians

TA0911130293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Continuing his state visit to Israel, King Juan Carlos of Spain today received Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He also received a Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin did most of the talking at his meeting with the king, who plied him with questions and showed a close interest in the Middle East peace process. Afterwards, Rabin voiced appreciation of Spain's contribution to that process:

[Rabin] Well, I thanked the king for having the Madrid peace conference, a conference that opened many avenues to negotiations with the Arab partners to achieve peace. As a result of it, the present Government of Israel took a decision, and we made a major step by signing the agreement about the declaration of principles to build interim arrangements for the Palestinians.

[Katzenell] The king also held a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and then left the King David Hotel, cheered by an enthusiastic group of Spanish tourists, who shouted: Viva el rey! Viva la reina! Viva Espana!

At the Spanish Consulate in East Jerusalem, the king had a meeting with a Palestinian delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana told reporters what had been discussed:

[Solana] We have had an interview with the Palestinian delegation in which basically they have shown gratitude with Spain for the cooperation in the peace process, in particular with the cooperation in the past, politically and economically.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 9 November carries a related report, adding that "the Palestinian representatives asked the Spanish king to help them with regard to the release of Palestinian detainees and prisoners and lifting the restrictions on the entrance of the inhabitants of the territories to Jerusalem. The parties also discussed the issue of EC aid for the establishment of the autonomy."]

[Katzenell] This afternoon the king will be received at the Knesset and will address the plenum. [end recording]

Parliamentary Elections Proceedings, Results Noted

King Interviewed on Election Day

JN0811160193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1428 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan, at the Royal Cultural Center's Press Center, by Jordan Television Director Ibrahim Shahzadah in the studio—live]

[Text] [Shahzadah] The 1993 elections studio has the honor to host the lord of the country His Majesty King Husayn in this live interview carried from both the studio and the Royal Cultural Center's Press Center for the 1993 elections. Good evening, your majesty. Your Majesty, can you hear me?

[Husayn] Yes, Sir.

[Shahzadah] Your Majesty: You have honored the 1993 elections studio. I would just like to ask your majesty: How would you describe your feeling on this great day?

[Husayn] My feeling is that of a man whose only hope and objective is to see this country live and exercise complete democracy. I hope that we all will assume our responsibilities under these crucial and decisive circumstances, and that God almighty will grant us success, so we will leave the coming generations the responsibility of continuing on the path of democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights. I also ask God almighty to allow the whole region to enjoy a just and comprehensive peace that coming generations will accept and safeguard. This will be our gift to the coming generations, God willing.

[Shahzadah] Your Majesty the King: What would you like to say to those who have carried out their great duty of casting their votes, and to those who have thus far not done so?

[Husayn] I express my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to those who have carried out their great duty. They carried out the duty, and did not disappoint themselves or me. There are still a few hours [left to vote], and there is great hope that those who have not yet cast their votes, for one reason or another, will carry out their duty to the one great Jordanian family of various origins and descents, and for its future and fate.

[Shahzadah] For more than 40 years—may you enjoy a long life, God willing—you have seen this homeland grow and enlarge despite the hardships and difficulties it has faced. What are the dearest wishes you look forward to achieving on the level of both the homeland and this part of the world?

[Husayn] We want to carry out our duty, serve, give, and leave the coming generations an opportunity to live under circumstances better than those we have experienced. I do not have any other objective or aspirations at all. Naturally, as part of the region, the events, and the changes, we are with the kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine. We have appealed to them to be cohesive. Our decision is clearly to support them to our utmost capabilities and resources. We take pride in the distinguished relationship that binds us together always on the path of good. We have great hope that the future edifice will be based on a solid ground, and that this edifice will be established from the base to the apex in a way that removes all doubts, delusions, and traces left over by the attempts of many enemies, and the traces that resulted from mistrust or any other reason.

We also ask God to grant us success, so Jerusalem, the holiest of sacred places, will be the place where the worshipers of God the almighty will meet. We will not accept any authority over the holy places in this sacred city but the authority of God. We hope God will grant success and guide people, so the believers in the one God will converge on fearing and worshipping Him.

We ask God for a peace that the coming generations will accept, safeguard, and enjoy.

[Shahzadah] Many thanks to His Majesty King Husayn, who has honored us with this live interview from the Royal Cultural Center's Press Center. Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you. May God bless you.

Closure of Polls Reported

JN0811194493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] At 1900 today, the polling boxes of the parliamentary elections were closed after the 12 hours of ballot casting. Our correspondents in the governorates said that the counting process had begun at several counting centers. The percentage of votes in the kingdom up to 1800 today reached 61.29 of those carrying voting cards.

The percentages of votes in the governorates are as follows:

Amman Governorate 57.30; Irbid Governorate 65.52; al-Tafilah Governorate 77.47; al-Zarqa' Governorate 57.47; al-Mafraq Governorate 69.07; Ma'an Governorate 73.27; al-Karak Governorate 59.39; and al-Balqa' Governorate 56.30.

We will provide you with the final percentage of votes as soon as we receive them from the information center at the Interior Ministry.

Interior Minister Announces Results

JN0911094193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0805 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Text" of statement by Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad on the results of the 8 November parliamentary elections, carried live from the Press Center at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed brothers: It pleases me to meet you at the end of the parliamentary elections held for the 12th Jordanian House of Representatives, particularly since you all have followed up on the developments of these elections stage by stage. The Ministry of Interior has been eager to provide all possible facilities to enable you to learn the facts, write your findings, and announce these findings without any censorship, except for your consciences and the ethics governing your profession. For my part, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to you as media persons for the positive and continuous contributions you have made to enlighten citizens with regard to the importance of participation, and also with regard to guiding them as to how they should exercise their constitutional right in these elections, which His Majesty King Husayn wanted to be the easiest, the most honest, and the best elections. And so they have been, God be praised for that.

The government has spared no effort to provide all that could facilitate things for citizens and create the best circumstances for them to enable them to consummate the march of goodness, the march of responsible democracy, which has taken its distinct shape and become full-fledged, thanks to the will of the honest leadership. That is why citizens registered their names at registration centers throughout the kingdom. Some 1,501,972 voters registered their names at the registration centers. Some 1,203,329 voters obtained their personal voting cards; that is, 80.15 percent of registered voters. Yesterday morning, Monday, those voters headed for the ballot boxes, which totaled 2,906, distributed wherever there are voters. Some 820,116 voters exercised their voting rights; that is, 68.15 percent of those who obtained their voting cards.

Dear brothers: A conscientious and fine elite group of the close-knit Jordanian family, Husayn's family, has taken part in the efforts to prepare for and supervise the election process at various phases. Hence, we extend our enormous thanks and appreciation for all state officials affiliated with various ministries and departments, who took part in the elections process, demonstrating sincere endeavors and making sacrifices. We also thank the personnel of the Public Security Department—director, officers, and enlisted personnel. We have immense appreciation and affection for them, for they performed their duties with commendable honesty and sincerity. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of this mission.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 58 of the House of Representatives Election Law No. 22 for 1986 and its amendments, I announce the general results of the parliamentary elections for 1993 as follows:

Amman Governorate First Constituency.
The winners are:

-
- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shabanah
- Hammad Muhammad Fulayyih Abu-Jamus
- Dr. Dhib 'Abdallah Hamid Khattab

Amman-Second Constituency:

-
- 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ra'fat Muhammad Abu-Zant
- Hamzah 'Abbas Husayn Mansur
- Muhammad Ahmad Salim al-Dhuwayb

Amman-Third Constituency:

-
- Dr. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Halim al-Kilani
- Tahir Nash'at al-Masri
- 'Ali Husayn Muhammad Abu-al-Raghib
- Mrs. Tujan Faysal Qalajri
- Khalil Hanna Haddadin

Amman-Fourth Constituency:

-
- Anwar Muhammad Minwir al-Hadid
- Muhammad Ibrahim al-Rashid al-Hunayti

Amman-Fifth Constituency:

-
- Dr. Hammam 'Abd-al-Rahim Sa'id al-'Abd
- Khalid 'Abd-al-Nabi Matar al-'Ajarimah
- 'Abd Musa Nahar al-Bakhit
- Miflih Falih al-Lawzi
- Munir Husni Shuman Subar

Amman-Sixth Constituency:

-
- Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz Kasib al-Shakhanibah
- Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Muhammad Mahmud al-Aqtash
- Samih Ishaq al-Farah

Amman-Seventh Constituency; Bedouins of the Central Area:

-
- Jamal Hadithah al-Khurayshah
- Dr. Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn

Irbid Governorate

Irbid Constituency:

-
- 'Abd-al-Majid 'Ali Muhammad al-'Azzam
- Falih Ahmad Hasan Shi'watah
- 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Salim al-Rawabidah
- Dr. 'Arif Sa'd al-Batayinah
- Dr. Salih Shafiq Irshaydat
- Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Isma'il Tubayshat
- Dr. Ahmad Mujalli al-Kawfahi
- 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad al-'Ukur
- Nadir Ghazi Abu-al-Sha'r

Jarash Constituency:

-

- Miflih Hamad al-Ruhaymi
- Sulayman Salamah al-Sa'd al-Khalaf

'Ajlun Constituency:

-
- Ahmad Miflih al-Qudah
- Dayfallah Muhammad al-Mumani
- Farah Musa al-Rabadi

Al-Ramtha and Bani-Kinanah Constituency:

-
- Fawwaz Mahmud al-Zu'bi
- Talal Hamid 'Ubaydat
- Ibrahim 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz Samarah al-Zu'bi

Al-Kurah and Northern Jordan Valley Constituency:

-
- Hatim Muhammad al-Bashir al-Ghizawi
- Nadir Muhammad Subh Zuhayrat

Al-Balqa' Governorate:

-
- 'Ali Sulayman al-Shatti
- Muhammad 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uwaydah
- Mustafa Sulayman Shunaykat
- Ibrahim Shihdah al-Hajj Yusuf Hamdan
- Hashim Ahmad Mutlaq al-Dabbas
- 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Karim Hamdan al-Nusur
- Samir Farhan Qa'war
- Fawzi Shakir Tu'aymah al-Dawud

Al-Karak Governorate:

-
- 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Atallah al-Majali
- Mahmud 'Abd-al-Latif al-Huwaymil
- Mansur 'Abd-al-Ghani Sulayman Bin-Tarif
- Ahmad Muhammad Isma'il al-Kasasibah
- Jamil Salim al-'Ushush
- Samir Fahim al-Habashinah
- Jamal Ahmad al-Sarayirah
- Nazih Salamah al-'Ammarin
- Hani Salim al-Hijazin

Ma'an Governorate:

-
- Dr. 'Awad Muhammad Khulayfat
- 'Abd-al-Karim 'Alawi al-Kabariti
- Tawfiq Mahmud Kurayshan
- Taha 'Ali Mutlaq al-Habahibah
- Badr Salih Muhammad al-Riyati

South Bedouins Constituency:

-
- Salim Nasir al-Zawayidah
- Muhammad 'Awdah Hasan al-Nijadat

Al-Zarqa' Governorate:

-
- Dr. Bassam 'Ali al-'Umush
- Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Hajj
- Dhib Anis 'Abd-al-Hafiz Shihadah
- Fayyad Fawzi Jarrar
- 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu
- Bassam Salamah Haddadin

Al-Mafraq Governorate

Al-Mafraq Constituency:

-
- 'Abd-al-Karim Faysal Dayfallah al-Dughmi
- 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Kayid Akhu-Rushaydah
- Muhammad Talab Abu-'Alim

North Bedouins Constituency:

-
- Sa'd Hayil 'Awdah al-Surur
- Nawwaf Sa'ud al-Qadi

Al-Tafilah Governorate:

-
- Muhammad Hasan Dawudiyah
- 'Abdallah 'Ali al-'Akayilah
- Ratib Salamah Ibrahim al-Sa'ud

Comments on Election Process

JN0911102093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Nov 93

[News conference by Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad with unidentified reporters, following the announcement of the 8 November parliamentary election results, at the Press Center in the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Do you think the Interior Ministry lived up to his majesty the king's promise of free and fair elections? And, we would like you to shed some light on what happened in the Fifth Constituency with Humam Sa'id, given that he has been elected?

[Hammad] We hope we have fulfilled the trust in the way the leader wanted it. It is up to you and the citizens to judge our performance, which you saw firsthand during the balloting. Regarding Humam Sa'id: Upon the completion of vote counting in the Fifth Constituency where Dr. Humam Sa'id won a seat. [sentence incomplete as heard]. You know that we announced the results this morning and allowed enough time for verification more than once following the announcement of the results. Dr. Humam Sa'id along with former deputy Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris, who failed to be reelected, lingered in the hall and asked the governor that they take down the information written on the board and look at all the papers and stay in the hall until they complete taking all the required information. Dr. Humam called me up and I told him we were prepared to take any legal action, but right now the procedures are subject to law, and we have no authority. Dr. Humam is entitled to make any complaint. In actual fact, they took down the information they wanted. We have nothing to hide, and thanks be to God, our procedures are correct.

[Reporter] Did they submit any objections?

[Hammad] They can submit a challenge to the House of Representatives, not to me.

[Reporter] Were there any incidents during the balloting?

[Hammad] None, thanks be to God. If any incidents occurred you would have heard.

(Reporter] There were reports of disturbances in al-Karak yestereday. Were there any?

[Hammad] There were none.

[Reporter, in English] Were there any irregularities, and if so, to what extent?

[Hammad, in English] There was nothing like that; I haven't heard anything like this.

[Reporter] Of the 80 deputies elected, how many are affiliated with political parties?

[Hammad] I have no complete breakdown. I can only tell you that of the Islamic Action Front, 16 were elected. If you want a complete breakdown we can provide one.

[Reporter] What [word indistinct] the failure of 32 percent of those who picked up balloting cards failed to participate in the elections? Is it viewed as an offense by law?

[Hammad] As you must have noticed, the voter turnout was one of the highest rates seen anywhere in the world. There is no such thing as perfection. We take pride in our performance, and the real credit must go to the ordinary citizen. We have provided the facilities and, thank God, we are happy with the outcome.

[Reporter, in English] I wonder if you could explain in English, for some of us, the composition of the final vote, particularly how many members of the Islamic Action Front won, how many independent Islamists won?

[Hammad, in English] I don't have all the information, but from the Islamic Front, the Islamic party, we have about 16 members in the parliament.

[Reporter] There was a lag behind other districts in the vote counting in Irbid and al-Balqa'. Why was that?

[Hammad] The lag in Irbid, al-Balqa', and the Fifth Constituency was in order to satisfy candidates and those who were present in the vote counting hall so that they may be assured of the correctness of the process. We were patient with them. We checked and double checked things.

[Reporter] What is the main characteristic of the 1993 elections, and can you give us a comparison between the 1989 and 1993 elections?

[Hammad] Thank you. I expect you to answer this question. We, in fact, are proud of what has taken place this year and what took place in 1989. I can say that there was greater participation in the 1993 elections than in the 1989 elections. The voting percentage this year was more than 68 percent. Meanwhile, the voting percentage in 1989 was between 49 to 50 percent. This is a sign of the citizen' affiliation and awareness of his role to safeguard the march of democracy and freedom laid down by this country's leadership.

[Reporter] What is your advice regarding the shooting that will take place to celebrate this occasion?

[Hammad] The advice is clear. Everybody knows that this is a happy occasion for all the winners. I believe that people should express their joy in a civilized way and in carrying out the duty, not in violating the law by shooting.

[Reporter] It is said that the results of the elections will give the government a free hand to proceed with the peace process. What is your comment on this?

[Hammad] As you know, the peace process has taken place within an international and regional political framework. And the elections concern the general situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. There is no doubt that the House of Representatives plays a major role in the march of this country toward the direction which we believe will be a sound one.

[Reporter] There are two complaints: First, the Muslim Brotherhood's complaint is that the Interior Ministry has not taken any measure against those who distributed leaflets slandering and insulting those deputies. On the other hand, the ministry referred Deputy Humam Sa'id to court following two people's claim that he kidnapped them. Anyway, the law will have the final say. The second issue is that your excellency gave two statements regarding the voting cards. When all the cards were handed out, you said that there were 1.19 million cards. The second time you said there were 1.21 million.

[Hammad] Thank you for bringing this up, because many sick- minded people are trying to cast doubts through rumors, leaflets, or questions. In fact, we did not arrest anybody for distributing leaflets and no complaints were filed against any person. Regarding Dr. Humam Sa'id's case, a number of people as well as he himself filed complaints about the distribution of leaflets. So, we referred everybody to court, which I believe was the right measure.

With regard to the voting cards, at the end of the registration process throughout the kingdom, we announced what was written by hand in the records. We then stored all the names into the computer and announced that those whose names were registered in the records were 1,578,00, not 1.59 million [as heard] as you said....

[Reporter, interrupting] [indistinct words]

[Hammad] Please, let me continue. This is what we announced. After storing the names in the computer, we found that more than 70,000 names were repeated in some constituencies. We were concerned to tackle any legal violations. When these repeated names were discovered, we decided to prevent people from voting twice. I think, this was the right and legal measure.

[Reporter] Some people were denied the chance to vote although they had voting cards. The excuse was that their voting cards had certain defects, for which they were not responsible. The agencies which issued these cards are responsible for the defects. What is your excellency's comment on this? In light of the current election experience regarding voting cards, is there a decision to continue to use them in the future?

[Hammad] With regard to the voting card holders who did not exercise their rite to vote, these were people who had given their family books to others to have their names registered. These people did not know where their names were registered. They were registered in 1989. They also got their names registered in 1993, and obtained subsequent registration cards, which were based on a violation of the law. And whatever is based on illegal grounds remains illegal. We have worked according to the previous registration; the legal registration. Consequently, those who obtained cards based on erroneous arrangements or procedures do not have the right to vote. These persons are few. We have addressed all the complaints we received in this regard.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the election results reflect a heightened awareness by Jordanian voters? One more question: Do you believe that the election law amendment was behind the reduced opposition representation, particuarly Islamic opposition representation in the next parliament?

[Hammad] Sorry, I have not understood your question.

[Reporter, repeats question] I have two questions. The first is: Do you believe the election results reflect a heightened awareness by Jordanian voters, or vice versa? The second question is: Do you believe the election law amendment is behind the reduced opposition representation, and Islamic opposition representation in particular?

[Hammad] As a matter of fact, the election results were determined by the citizens, who make their decisions in this regard. Indeed, it was the citizens who made their decisions in this regard. Hence, I do not have any comment on the choices made by the citizens in free and fair elections. With respect to the election law amendment, it was not meant to target any party. It was meant to address an unconstitutional state of affairs. To achieve equality among all citizens, a single article of the law was amended to grant Jordanians equal voting rights.

[Reporter, in English] Mr. Minister: Could you tell us about voter participation in '89 and now? Could you give us the figures for potential voters, registered voters, and people who took part, both in '89 and now? And could you tell us if there has been an increase, as there has been apparently, what do you think it means in terms of the results, especially for the Islamic Front?

[Hammad, in English] Well, I think the Jordanians who were registered were 1,501,979 [figure as heard]. And those who get their cards 1,203,329. Well, the percentage is 90 percent, sorry, 80 percent. Those who vote 820,116, which is 68.15 percent of those who get their cards. In '89, it was about 50, or even 49.08 of those who get their cards.

[Reporter, in English] Can you tell us what you think that means? What impact that had on this election, the increase in voter participation? Did it have....

[Hammad, interrupting, in English] I think so. I think the citizen did. They used their rights, and they now understand what the democracy, what the parliament means for them.

[Reporter, in English] On the results, I mean. The impact on the results. The fact that the Islamic Front got fewer votes, fewer seats? Is there any link between the two?

[Hammad, in English] I don't see any link between the two. But, it is up to the citizen himself, who decided this year in a way different. I think his majesty is going to visit you, and you are going to see him.

[Hammad, switching to Arabic] I believe we might have received some remarks from some brothers regarding winners in the al-Kurah and the Northern Jordan Valley Districts' constituency. In this constituency, the winners were: Hatim Muhammad al-Bashir al- Ghizawi, and Nadir Muhammad Subh al-Zuhayrat. I believe [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Hammad] Yes, sir. I thought that I had mentioned the names.

[Reporter, in English] What is the importance of those elections for the Arab world? Could you say something about it?

[Hammad, in English] Well, I think they can see by themselves and judge what is going on in Jordan, and they hope it is going to be for the benefit of the region.

[Reporter] Were there any objections over the results of elections?

[Hammad] No Sir, there were no objections other than what one of the brothers said in his question about brother Humam Sa'id's case.

[Reporter] These are the first elections in which political parties have taken part. However, after the announcement of the results, we notice that party representation is very limited. What is your opinion about this?

[Hammad] Nomination for election is the right of every eligible citizen regardless of whether or not he is a party member. The results were determined by the citizens. As a state, we did not interfere in this.

[Reporter, in English] Recently, you addressed this question in Arabic a short while ago. I'd like you to answer it, if possible, in English. Could you address the question of irregularities in the voting. There was some accusations that some candidates tried to take cards from the other candidates. There was some missing ballots. Could you comment on the degree to which you believe this is going on, and whether it influenced the outcome of the elections?

[Hammad, in English] Well, actually, I haven't seen anybody and ask me for any problem like this. I heard as you heard that some people were asking for their cards, and some of them did come to the ministry, and when we asked, we found that some of their relatives took their cards and we found that what I have seen.

[Reporter, in English] [indistinct words] overall influences in the outcome of elections?

[Hammad, in English] Yes, sir.

[Reporter, in English] Can you tell us how many Jordanians of Palestinian origin are now members of this new parliament?

[Hammad, in English] Well, I think this election for the Jordanians by law. So, all the Jordanians have the right to vote and to be candidate. Thank you. I think his majesty will come and see you here.

Islamists Suffer 'Setback'

JN0911075293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The final returns of Jordan's parliamentary elections point to a sweeping victory for moderate independent royalists and a setback for Islamists who controlled a third of the outgoing 80-seat house. In yesterday's polls the Islamists won only 16 seats, their independent supporters two.

Meanwhile, some leading figures in the Islamic Action Front, including former house speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, have failed to be reelected. The Muslim Brotherhood's official spokesman Ibrahim Khuraysat has also lost his seat. In some contituencies, the front, which fielded 36 candidates and 15 supporters in most of the kingdom's 20 constituencies, has failed to secure any seat. The left, winning only three seats, has also made a poor showing, having failed to retain the eight seats it held in the former chamber.

Tujan Faysal has made history by becoming the first woman in Jordan's parliamentary life to win a seat, having won one of the seats reserved for the Circassian minority.

The vote counting continued through the night, with Jordanians following the provisional results on television ahead of their official announcement this morning by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad.

King Assesses Turnout

JN0811223693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan at the Press Center in the Royal Cultural Center in Amman, by unidentified reporters on 8 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Do you have any observations on the voter turnout?

[Husayn] God be praised. There is a heavy turnout in some areas. The case is different in other areas. However, I believe things are fine. We hope more voters will show up, and that those who have not come for any reason will shake a leg.

[Reporter] What about your visit to the Interior Ministry and your inspection of its facilities?

[Husayn] I believe they could not be any better. We take pride in this.

[Reporter] Your majesty, are you satisfied with the progress of the elections?

[Husayn] God be praised. Regarding preparations, I can say they are very good. I hope that we will see very satisfactory results.

[Reporter] Do you think that amending the Election Law has led to a low turnout?

[Husayn] I believe that the amendment of the law was necessary because it tended to correct matters regarding the Constitution and the equal rights of all citizens. This is my belief. You might have noticed that I knew this right from the very beginning of the democratic stage regarding the previous House. I addressed a message and said there was an imbalance that should be remedied one way or another. I believe that the remedy was right at this stage. It gives people equal opportunities and concentrates on what is important for them. I hope that matters will be better in all cases. Of course, we hope Jordanian citizens will send to the House the best people who can serve them—regardless of slogans and fuss—and shoulder their responsibilities, because all of us should assume these responsibilities at this critical stage and in the future.

[Reporter] Your majesty, frankly, we notice that there is a difference between the 1989 and the 1993 elections. There is more rationalism now.

[Husayn] I hope so, God willing. The results will appear tonight.

[Reporter] Your majesty, do you believe that the Interior Ministry has fulfilled your promise of fair elections? If yes, to want extent?

[Reporter] Fully, I think. Fully, without any hesitation. I think that they have all risen to the expected level.

[Reporter] Thank you, your majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] from the occupied territories. My question is [words indistinct] members of the House of Representatives has any impact on Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the future?

[Husayn] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are distinguished. In fact, we had to adopt a position in light of the recent developments. We have asserted that our kinsmen and brothers should maintain their cohesion together and reach understanding at this critical, difficult stage. Then we found it is our duty, to which we have been committed throughout the march, to support them with all our capacity and potential. This is our reality. As for the future, it is left for the circumstances that will allow people to choose what they want. I think that we should move from the bottom to the top. This is the right thing [words indistinct] many things.

[Reporter] You have always asserted that the Jordanian citizens are one family.

[Husayn] True.

[Reporter] Was the decision to hold the elections on schedule an affirmation of this fact?

[Husayn] I think there is no question about that. Here, we are one family, regardless of origins. We take pride in our brotherhood. We all have a duty to perform. This does not in any way affect the future regarding any other situation that is different from the current stage.

'Indifference' Seen Among Palestinian Voters

JN0811121493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 93 pp 1,3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Typical of this year's elections, there is an atmosphere of indifference over the campaign among many Jordanians of Palestinian origin, particularly the 350,000 returnees from Kuwait and the Gulf states despite the high voting registration figures.

There is widespread belief that there is tacit official PLO- Jordanian cooperation to counter the influential Muslim Brotherhood in this year's elections. But despite active involvement from PLO groups, especially the mainstream Fatah faction, in contrast to its passive stance in 1989, Jordanians of Palestinian origin are expected to show a relatively lower turnout in elections.

This year's elections have, for the first time, clearly emphasised the existing but largely hidden East Jordanian- Palestinian divide, and highlighted the PLO's influence on the Palestinian population in the Kingdom.

Several observers noted that the absence of enthusiasm by many Jordanians of Palestinian origin, especially refugee camp residents, is attributed to a feeling of "alienation" from Jordanian politics, particularly after signing of the PLO-Israel agreement on autonomy. Many Palestinians, who had worked hard to integrate into the system were extremely discouraged by the largely negative reaction (to news of the accord and subsequently its signing) of East Jordanian "nationalists," whom some call Jordan's "Likud." That reaction has contributed to the feeling by more Palestinians that their existence in the Kingdom is "temporary."

But there is also a common feeling by both 1967 and 1948 refugees to continue to work for integration through asserting their political and civil rights for all Jordanians, especially those of Palestinian origin.

Former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, a Jordanian from the West Bank town of Nabulus, said "unfortunately the elections do reflect this unprecedented Jordanian-Palestinian divide, but we have to work hard in the future to avoid this unhealthy sign, especially at a time when we most need unity."

There is an overwhelming sense of indecision and a "wait and see" approach among many Palestinians. They either feel detached or have no faith that any Parliament is capable of making any significant changes as far as their lives are concerned.

"People tend to feel they are not counted in, and feel bitter about," said Labib Qamhawi, who is a Jordanian of Palestinian origin considered a "Palestinian hardliner."

"It is the first time this attitude of alienation could be classified as a domestic feeling rather than being PLO-inspired, which makes it all the more important and ominous in its significance and future impact on the politicis of the country."

Recent statements made by Dr. Qamhawi in a CNN report on Palestinian-Jordanian relations have stired a debate and drew an angry reaction from Jordanian nationalists, which further implied that the seensitivities were escalating rather than fading.

Many Palestinians who thought they had succeeded in integrating, and have become "Jordanised" now admit having difficulty in understanding what is really happening. Observers said it is this feeling of "unacceptance" that has largely contributed to the absence of enthusiasm over the elections.

Ibrahim Shihadah, a lawyer and one of five candidates from the al-Baq'ah refugee camp, said he expected few Palestinians to vote despite the high registration figures. But it is known that most people registered before the signing of the PLO-Israel autonomy agreement, he said. In the al-Baq'ah camp, for instance, there are 22,500 eligible voters from a total population of 170,000. Around 18,000 registered for the elections compared to only 5,000 in 1989, but most camp residents and candidates argued that almost two thirds of the registered voters would not cast their votes. The abstentions will come mostly from women and elderly people. If the latter group votes, however, they might favour the Islamic trend.

Although the PLO-Israel accord has directly influenced the Palestinian choice of candidate, it has not been the centre of public debate between voters and contenders. Most candidates said the voters were anxious to know what the candidates' position on the agreement was, but heated discussions of the actual accord was usually confined to small, private meetings.

In public, it seems that immediate concerns of most refugee camp residents have revolved around their fate and future, achieving equal political and civil rights. But these concerns also rotate around mproving their present living conditions.

The PLO-Israel accord has been viewed as the main factor weakening the Islamists in many Palestinian populated areas, but in general, it has also led to rivalries among candidates supporting the agreement and confusion among the voters.

Lamis Milhim, a doctor who works in al-Baq'ah refugee camp, said residents feel frustrated with their poor standard of living and they are very worried about their future after the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.

"They believe that these elections would not solve their problems," she told the Jordan Times.

The atmosphere in many Palestinian populated areas is probably more politically sophisticated, but the issue in common is that of direct services. Politicised banners have been almost nonexistent in many camps, and there has been an absence of Palestinian issues, except for emphasis on national unity. Candidates have promised to go to any length in order to reconcile Palestinians' right of return with their political and civil rights in Jordan.

Mr. Shihdah and Mr. al-Masri agreed that the general feeling is that Palestinian issues are completely tackled by the PLO, so peoples' focus is on direct services and equality.

Five women waiting at a public office in one Palestinian refugee camp discussed the elections and said they all registered for the vote, but only one would actually cast her ballot.

"The previous Parliament did nothing to help us. When we knocked at the door of the deputy we voted for, he was always too busy to receive us," said an elderly woman. All said they wantd jobs for their sons and husbands, they wanted electricity, more water pumped to their houses, and more public services.

"We will vote for the candidate who can succeed in providing services to the camp," one woman said.

An electrician, resident of Ma'daba refugee camp, said he would vote for someone who "would facilitate our paperwork in government offices and departments."

Mahmud Salih, a teacher and an active campaigner for the Islamic Action Front candidate in al-Baq'ah camp Muhammad 'Uwaydah, said the Front decided to field a camp resident for the elections "because the trend in the camp is to vote for a Palestinian candidate." This explains the larger number of Palestinian candidates running for electiosn compared to 1989.

"They should be voting for me as a Jordanian," Mr. al-Masri said.

But Mr. Shihdah, widely known as the Fatah candidate in al-Baq'ah camp, said people feel that a Palestinian, or a camp candidate who lives among his constituency and is daily touch with them can be more responsive to their needs and can better understnd their problems.

Many argued tht the atmosphere of anti-Palestinianism by Jordanian "likudnik" which accompanied the signing of the PLO-Israel accord has not helped to dispel their fears about being treated equally as Jordanian citizens.

"To only have a (Jordanian) passport does not mean you are talking about an identity. We have to differentiate between the passport the paper, and the passport the identity," Mr. Shihdah said. "Palestinians living outside Palestine have to exercise their existence, but not to forget their identity."

The 1948 refugees say although they realise that the PLO-Israel accord has conceded their right of return, they nevertheless still have hopes to return. They are uncertain about their future, and feel lost between thinking of permanently improving their status in Jordan and waiting to see how the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord would affect them.

"Certainly people are worried about their future, but nobody gave them answers after the signing of the PLO-Israel agreement," Mr. Shihdah said.

But voting for a Palestinian candidate will not necessarily be the only pattern of voting in today's elections because in several districts, Palestinians support an East Jordanian candidate.

"An East Jordanian deputy can better defend the Palestinians' case in Parliament because he would be better connected to the power centres than a Palestinian," said a professor at Jordan University, who did not want to be identified any further.

Intellectuals and wealthier Jordanians of Palestinian origin have shown relatively more interest and enthusiasm in the election campaign. Many would vote for liberal and moderate candidates, regardless of their origin.

Mr. al-Masri believes that Palestinians will be voting in big numbers in the Third District, an upper middle class area, where he is seeking reelection.

"It is known that in any democracy, the lower income families are usually the least interested in elections," Mr. al-Masri said.

If you see lack of interest in important political issues, Mr. al-Masri added, it is because many people feel that these issues are decided without them. "That is why, on the whole, people's main focus is on direct services."

Observers also noted the dispersion of the Palestinian vote, which could end up weakening many of their candidates.

Some attributed this to the application of the one-person, one- vote formula. The new voting system has not only contributed to the fragmentation of the Jordanian clans, it has also led to divisions within and among Palestinian families. Although the clannish trend and loyalty is less obvious among Palestinians, their candidates have followed alsmost a similar pattern as the East Jordanians in attracting voters. A Palestinian candidate's support comes from his family and its links with other Palestinian families as well as dependence on family-geographic influence.

Of the 350,000 Jordanians of Palestinian origin who were expelled from Kuwait and the Gulf during the Gulf crisis, there seems to be even less enthusiasm to vote, observers said.

Some leaders of the returnees complained they had to push hard to convince them to exercise their voting right, one which many will be doing for the first time.

Journalist Tawfiq Abu-Bakr, a returnee from Kuwait, said he expected "a low percentage to vote because they still feel unintegrated and unaccepted by the Jordanian society."

When returnees arrived to Jordan, they complained of alienation and many still find it difficult to relate to a completely different society which looks upon them as outsiders, Mr. Abu-Bakr said.

Even the intellectuals said they feel estranged, although this group as well as the businessmen have been the most forthcoming and interested in going to the polls.

"The trend among these is to vote for the moderate and liberal candidates," Mr. Abu-Bakr said, adding that "in Kuwait, the Islamic trend was almost non-existent; therefore, returnees most likely would vote for moderation."

Many of the returnees expressed support for the PLO-Israel accord and a peaceful settlement in general.

"Due to our suffering during the Gulf crisis, and the feeling that we do not belong anywhere, many of us are thinking of returning to the occupied territories when the PLO-Israel accord is implemented," said one returnee.

And due to their experience and suffering from the outcome of the Gulf war, most would not vote for a candidate who continued to support the regime in Iraq.

IAF Candidate Charged With Kidnapping, Assault

JN0811134793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—On the eve of the parliamentary elections an Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate for the Fifth District of Amman, Humam Sa'id, appeared in court in Amman Sunday morning charged with plotting the kidnapping of and assault of two men in the Suwaylih area at dawn Sunday.

'Ali Mahmud Salamah and Ahmad Mahmud Husayn Salamah, both members of the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement, Du'a', charge they were kidnapped at 1:00 a.m. Sunday by a group of people riding in a car pasted with the photos of Miflih al-Lawzi, an independent candidate from the Fifth District.

The two Du'a' activisits who campaign for the movement candidate, Yusuf Abu-Bakr, told police later that they were taken to Shaykh Humam Sa'id's home where they were severely beaten for their alleged involvement in the distribution of leaflets attacking Shaykh Sa'id.

An eyewitness tipped the police who entered the Sa'id residence.

Shaykh Sa'id was brought to the Suwaylih police station, indicted for kidnapping and assault and later moved to the court.

The two claimants produced a physician's report. The court, which convened Sunday morning, deferred the case until Saturday.

Humam Sa'id and another member of the IAF, candidate Muhammad Abu-Faris also from the Fifth District, were expelled from a public rally Saturday in Suwaylih at which both claimants were present.

The audience threw out the two candidates because they disagreed with the views being discussed at the meeting which was attended by the two victims of the assault.

Al-Majali: No Accord With Israel Before Syria

JN0811181493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan will not sign a peace accord with Israel before Syria or any other Arab country.

In an interview with the daily GULF, issued in the United Arab Emirates, Dr. al-Majali said he believed a remarkable progress will be achieved in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks before the end of this year.

The prime minister called for ending Arab differences, adding that misunderstanding should dispel from this region which is passing through a critical stage in its history.

Dr. al-Majali warned that unless Arabs were unified, a regional order against their interests might be imposed upon them.

Al-Hirawi Interviewed on Mideast Peace, Domestic Issues

PM0811153693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 5

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Beirut; place and date not given]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] How do you see Lebanon's future and role in the Middle East after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Al-Hirawi] The regrettable thing in the solution and the peace issue is that it was started on a limited scale. Until this moment we have seen nothing but a limited agreement, that is, the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Yet Lebanon participated in the peace conference held in Madrid on the basis of the participation of all the Arab states, especially the cordon states. There was complete coordination between us and these states, and the meetings that followed the general meeting always discussed the foundations of this coordination, with Egypt's participation, so that we would be united, hoping to achieve a comprehensive solution based on the principle that if there is to be peace, it must be complete, and that if it is divided, there will be no peace.

On several occasions there were serious discussions among the cordon states with a view to persuading the Palestinians to go to these meetings, as there were differing views between their representatives and the PLO and those inside the occupied territories.

When the 11th round of negotiations was held, the cordon states held a meeting in Beirut to study the situation. I held a discussion session with them (ministers of the cordon states), followed by a banquet. They (members of the Palestinian delegation) did not speak at all about what was being envisaged for the Arab states. I must say here that every state is entitled to do what it believes is in its interests. The least the Palestinians could have done—after all that has happened between us and them since 1969 and given the existence of over 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon—was to show interest in continuing the coordination with us on all tracks of the negotiations, hence my loud cry when I knew of what had happened (the Oslo negotiations). I had to recall what they used to say, namely that "holy Jerusalem will not be liberated except from Juniyah." What saddened me a lot was to see the PLO leader saying that "anyone who was able to rule Lebanon from north to south can rule Gaza and Jericho."

Everyone knows that the Palestine issue has for many years been every Lebanese citizen's issue, and that the Lebanese people have suffered a great deal for the sake of this issue, not only because of the existence of thousands of Palestinians on our territory, but also because of the wars waged on Lebanon. It saddens me to open this file to recall what happened in all Lebanese governorates and the sufferings we have experienced, which we could have done without, including ruin, destruction, homelessness, and killings. And I wonder now: Are they content with Gaza and Jericho and with letting the issue end at this? We sacrificed our stability as the price of supporting the Palestinians, but they abandoned us with a separate limited agreement.

We support the liberation of every inch of Arab territory, but within the framework of comprehensive Arab accord and full peace. I think that Lebanon, which has paid a heavy price for the sake of their cause, has the right and duty to take care of its own cause and put an end to its suffering.

On this occasion, especially after seeing what happened between the Jordanian Kingdom and Israel, namely the signing of a declaration of principles and the circulating rumors, as I am not familiar with what is happening nor do I want to be—I say that we in Lebanon will stay with the Syrian brothers to the end of the road. We do not accept any solution except a comprehensive solution through which the Arab land is liberated, whether in southern Lebanon, western al-Biqa', or the Golan.

When many Western capitals or the United States have made the accusation that it is Syria's pressure on us—through the presence of its Army in Lebanon—which is forcing the Lebanese Government, the Chamber of Deputies, or the president of the republic to adhere to this position and this opinion, I have hastened to reply to them openly that there is no pressure. But it is our belief that peace should be a just and comprehensive peace, not a separate peace.

['Alam-al-Din] Are you satisfied with the pace of U.S. endeavors to achieve a solution?

[Al-Hirawi] We had hoped that after the U.S. envoy (Dennis) Ross' visit there would be shuttle visits and a tour between Damascus and Tel Aviv to iron out the obstacles and ease the complex issues. But Ross' sudden return to Washington after his visit to Syria proved that the peace track between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel will not be discussed soon.

According to political analysts, it is said that the situation inside Israel suggests waiting until the Israelis have digested the Gaza-Jericho agreement before the withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa' can be seriously discussed. Our opinion in this connection is that we are still committed to what we were promised when we accepted the invitation from the United States and Russia to participate in the Madrid conference. And even now we are still banking on the role of the United States, which emphasizes all the time that it is going to continue its mediation right to the end.

As for Lebanon's future role when the desired peace has been achieved—and we are advocates of peace, not war—our first aim is to liberate our south, and western al-Biqa', from the Israeli occupation. Then the Lebanese Government will guarantee that not a single bullet will be fired on Israel from the Lebanese border. I said and pledged this in my address to the United Nations in

1991, because, as I said, we are not warmongers, but advocates of peace. I also said that I cannot sign an agreement on peace and the normalization of relations except within the framework of a unified Arab position and full Arab participation, and that Lebanon cannot sign separate agreements. As for Lebanon's future role if the just and comprehensive peace is achieved, it is the responsibility of its sons, and they are capable of protecting it.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the campaigns and criticisms aimed against the government's course at the domestic level?

[Al-Hirawi] Criticism, differences of opinion and interpretation, and differing views are normal in a democratic state like Lebanon. Every person is entitled to express his opinion freely and without fear, otherwise the state to which he belongs is a dictatorial state.

I call on those who criticize the state's performance to compare what existed before and after our coming to power to see the big positive difference which has been achieved. Lebanon has seen four governments since we assumed power. Each one of them played a fundamental role in moving from a state of war and destruction to a state of stability and building.

The task of the first government was to achieve national reconciliation, which we have proposed on several occasions, or to put an end to the rebellion that took place, and we were forced to adopt the second option, ending the rebellion, because they did not accept peace.

The task of the second government was to disband the militias, extend the state's authority over all Lebanese territory, collect the arms, and unify the Army and security forces—which indeed took place.

The task of the third government was to embark on a democratic action, namely to refer to the Lebanese people to elect a new chamber of deputies 18 years after the [previous] elections. These elections were boycotted by some people, because they still live in the whirlpool of violence and boycott. But I think they all regret this position.

The government carried out this duty, and the elections were free and impartial. Proof of this is that my son failed to win. It is the first time in Lebanese history that a president's son has failed in the elections.

As for the fourth government, its task is to develop and rebuild Lebanon, restore its previous status, and lead it to what is awaiting it in the future. This is why I always say in front of everyone: Give me a comparison between where we were and where we are now.

['Alam-al-Din] Are you satisfied with the development and rebuilding march?

[Al-Hirawi] After the conclusion of the al-Ta'if conference we were promised the establishment of an Arab fund to support Lebanon and the allocation of $2 billion to this end. The Gulf war broke out and the establishment of this fund was obstructed.

Recently the south was bombarded and its villages destroyed by the Israelis. There was a decision by the Arab League to help Lebanon with some $500,000 to rebuild what was destroyed in the south. The prime minister (Rafiq al-Hariri) and the Arab League secretary general (Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid) made an Arab tour after the decision in question had been taken in order to implement it. But most regrettably, we still have not received anything, or only very little.

We are no longer waiting for donations. We are seeking long-term loans on easy terms. We have so far obtained many of them, beginning with a World Bank loan. We have already begun to rebuild what was destroyed. But time is needed to complete the entire job. This is because it is easy to destroy, but building requires patience, time, and determination to succeed.

['Alam-al-Din] What is the latest on the U.S. ban on Beirut airport and travel to Lebanon, and the conditions for lifting that ban?

[Al-Hirawi] We are the target of human rights campaigns and claims in the foreign press and circles. We believe that the United States makes such claims against us from time to time, prevents our national airline from operating on U.S. routes, bans the reopening of the U.S. consulate in Lebanon, and prevents American businessmen from coming to Lebanon. All that makes me wonder, why all these measures? Are there any hostages left in Lebanon? Is the Lebanese people's freedom violated on their soil? Is there full security in the United States itself or in Europe, as there is in Lebanon? I wish a human rights committee would come to Lebanon, investigate, and see for itself if there is even a single political detainee in our prisons or if there is anybody in Lebanese prisons other than those convicted of crimes punishable under the law such as murder, theft, assault, drug dealing, and so on.

As regards the claims about the south and the resistance, I ask those who accuse us: Was there no resistance to the occupation in France in World War II? Was there no resistance in Belgium and every European state occupied by Germany? Who helped the French resistance against the German occupation? Did the Western states headed by the United States not do that? How can they reconcile that to the fact that they are now telling the Lebanese: You have no right to resist in order to liberate your territory? And why do they not implement Resolution 425 which calls for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' and yet ask the Lebanese state to honor its commitment, as you say, of ceasing all firing on Israel? Why do they not try to do that? Would that not be better than making false charges against us?

['Alam-al-Din] What, in your view, is required to end "the Lebanese crisis" with the United States?

[Al-Hirawi] I personally believe, and this is not only my view, that Lebanon has to solve its problem with Israel in order to solve its problem with the Americans.

['Alam-al-Din] When talking about the Gaza-Jericho agreement, you said that the next three months would be difficult for Lebanon. Could you explain to us why?

[Al-Hirawi] When I said what I said, I had my reasons. One of them was a message I received from Bill Clinton saying that the peace principles must be implemented before the end of this year.

I now doubt that, having seen information and views indicating a lack of Israeli response to that approach on the alleged grounds that the Israeli public opinion is not very satisfied with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

So, if there is no strong U.S. drive to make Israel advance seriously on the road of peace, the entire process would be threatened.

['Alam-al-Din] Your government sources say that there is a possibility of agreement with Israel on a working paper before the end of this year. Are there any facts to substantiate these expectations?

[Al-Hirawi] So far, no working paper has been submitted to us.

['Alam-al-Din] What about the question of resettlement of the Palestinians, the fact that there are no accurate statistics of their numbers, and how can the threat of resettlement be evaded?

[Al-Hirawi] We must take the Constitution into consideration. The articles of the Constitution are the guarantee for all Lebanon and all the Lebanese. In it, at the beginning, there is an article which clearly states that "Lebanese territory is a singlee whole and every Lebanese has a right to live on and enjoy any part of Lebanon under the rule of law. The people cannot be divided on the basis of any affiliation," and that means sectarian affilation. So there can be no division, partition, or resettlement.

The text is clear and does not require further explanation. Lebanon is immune to division, partition, and resettlement. As to how we can exclude resettlement from Lebanon, well, the question is invalid because we reject it. My concept is basically that the establishment of a Palestinian state would give every Palestinian the right to a Palestinian identity. He could live anywhere in any country he likes without assuming the identity of that country. Otherwise, how could there be 12 million expatriates living abroad and how could Palestinians live in so many Western states?

Do you want a country like Lebanon, 10,000 square kilometers in area, to absorb hundreds of thousands of Palestinians or others? That is impossible. Regrettably, we have neither the land nor the resources for that.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you believe that the United States is playing the part of full partner in the peace process?

[Al-Hirawi] At this moment, I do not doubt that it is. The U.S. Administration is sometimes influenced by Israel but the establishment of peace would serve its main interests. Why? The United States has internal problems. That is why President George Bush lost the election. They include problems of medical care for 35 million Americans as well as economic problems which get worse through the payment of $3 billion to Israel every year, not to mention other additional sums, difficult to estimate, paid by the American taxpayers to Israel. At the foreign level, the United States is trying to reduce its forces abroad to cut defense expenses in addition to the nuclear cuts and star wars cuts.

For these and other reasons it is in the interests of the United States to solve the Middle East problem, otherwise Israel will continue to be a heavy burden on it.

['Alam-al-Din] There are those who blame Lebanon for not participating in the multilateral negotiations which cover such issues as water distribution among the states of the Middle East. They say that Lebanon's absence from the negotiations would open the way for resolutions that would redistribute Lebanon's water in its absence. How do you view this matter?

[Al-Hirawi] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that Israel does not covet a single inch of Lebanese territory nor does it covet Lebanon's water. We have not joined the multilateral negotiations for several reasons. One reason is that we refuse to hold any discussions before Israel withdraws from our territory. We have neither environment nor water to give to anyone.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the government's performance amidst increasing claims about differences between its members?

[Al-Hirawi] How would the papers which cover these issues be able to fill their pages if they did not fabricate a problem every day? If there was real disagreement within the government, it would surface and would not just go away. It would emerge in the cabinet or in the Chamber of Deputies.

However, to say that there are differences of opinion, well, that is natural. This is a democratic country. Whenever there are such differences of opinion, every issue is put to the vote to arrive at a decision. That is what happens but it does not mean that there is an explosive situation.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there a real desire to change or reshuffle the cabinet?

[Al-Hirawi] At present... In Lebanon we are used to hearing talk of cabinet changes as soon as the decrees forming that cabinet are issued. This government is a year old, so there is bound to be a lot of talk about changing it, but the truth is quite the opposite. Governments are judged by their achievements not by their agenda. I rember that, in the days of the late President Ilyas Sarkis, I was a member of a cabinet that lasted more than two years

['Alam-al-Din] Are you satisfied with the Army's rebuilding process?

[Al-Hirawi] Satisfied in every sense. First of all, the Army has been united. There is no longer any sectarianism or discrimination and no designation of various brigades to various quarters, unlike the situation in the Army when we took over, when there was a Christian brigade, a Druze brigade, a Shiite brigade, and a Sunni brigade. The Republican Guard only had Christians but now 64 percent of the Republican Guard members are Muslims.

['Alam-al-Din] Why does President Ilyas al-Hirawi not contemplate renewing his term of office?

[Al-Hirawi] The Constitution does not allow it and I do not wish to renew. I am committed to the provisions of the Constitution which I swore to honor.

['Alam-al-Din] What will you do when your term ends? Will you be a deputy or a lawyer?

[Al-Hirawi] Neither, and no ministry. My home will remain open to every Lebanese. I will not stop dealing with public affairs and I will be the first supporter of the president who succeeds me.

Al-Hirawi, al-Asad Exchange Views on Regional Developments

NC0911074493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In a telephone conversation, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad exchanged views on regional developments and al-Hirawi's visit to the Vatican.

Katyushas Fired at Security Zone

TA0711070393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In south Lebanon last night, five katyusha rockets were fired at the security zone. There were no reports of injuries. Lebanese security sources told Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north that the katyushas were fired near the village of Yatar, north of the security zone. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, a South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was injured when he stepped on a land mine. He was taken to Rambam Hospital and is now reported in moderate condition.

Three SLA Soldiers Injured in Fighting

TA0711102993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Three SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were slightly injured in exchanges of fire between the SLA and terrorists in south Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that this morning, terrorists attacked an SLA position south of Sujud with artillery and RPG fire. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the hospital. The SLA and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retaliated by shelling the terrorist positions.

Further on Fighting in South

NC0811182293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] In its first such statement, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party said that a group belonging to the Martyr Muhammad Salim Unit, operating within the National Resistance Front, today attacked the Rshaf position with rockets and machine guns, scoring direct hits. The group returned safely to base. The enemy responded by raking the nearby area with fire.

Meanwhile, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south says that the towns of Bra'shit and Haddathah were shelled early this morning. An Israeli destroyer was seen cruising close to the coast of Tyre.

It has been learned that the agent Lahd militia in Jazzin has cleared barriers and mines blocking the (Zahra)-Batir-al-Ramlah- (Haysurah)-Zhalta-Jba' road since 1984. The militia also removed the barriers blocking the Kafr Milki road between Buslayya and Snayya without giving any reasons.

Egypt's al-Baz Visits, Discusses Peace Negotiations

Delivers Mubarak Message to al-Asad

JN0811163993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director for political affairs of the president's office, at 1430 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Dr. al-Baz delivered a message to the president from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Comments After Meeting al-Asad

NC0811193293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad through Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Al-Baz said after his three-hour meeting with the Syrian president that he hopes the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations will resume in Washington. These negotiations are the normal channel for making the hoped-for progress, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, he said. He said Egypt, which hopes that the negotiations will resume in Washington, is working on this with a view to achieving progress on all tracks. He added: However, we are still at the stage of preparations and creating the appropriate climate so that the upcoming rounds of talks can make progress.

Dr. al-Baz stressed that Egypt will do its best to encourage the peace negotiations. He noted that coordination and consultation between Damascus and Cairo are continuing for this purpose.

Asked if Israel supports the resumption of the bilateral talks, al-Baz said it is not up to any party to support or oppose this. Israel has a commitment under Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the formulas of the Geneva and Madrid conferences provide for progress on all negotiating tracks, not on one to the exclusion of others.

Confers With al-Shar'

JN0811170193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister, received Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director for political affairs of the president's office, this morning. Talks during the meeting dealt with the overall situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' Receives Libyan Envoy, Letter for al-Asad

JN0711134993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Ibrahim al-Bishari, personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of 1 September Revolution, who handed him a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad from Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Talks during the meeting centered on the Arab situation and developments in the region. The meeting was attended by Humayyid Jallud, head of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus.

Lebanese Interior Minister Meets With Counterpart

NC0711094493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij met in Damascus yesterday with his Syrian counterpart Muhammad Harbah and discussed security issues and the measures that need to be taken to facilitate transportation across the borders between the two countries. They also previewed the Arab interior ministers' conference, which will be held in Tunis at the beginning of December.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives 8 Nov

JN0811135593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—Cypriot Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis and his wife arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received on arrival at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus, the charge d' affaires in the Syrian Embassy in Nicosia, and the staff of the Cypriot Embassy in Damascus.

Al-Asad To Visit Tehran 'This Month'

PM0511153893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Al-Asad Reportedly Preparing To Visit Tehran This Month"]

[Text] Damascus, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian sources in Damascus yesterday confirmed that President Hafiz al-Asad has received an invitation to visit Iran, but a date has not yet been fixed.

Well-informed Arab sources in Amman said yesterday that a Syrian move will begin within days, represented in a visit to Iran this month by President al-Asad to meet with the Iranian president and senior Iranian officials.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a high-ranking Iranian official visited Damascus recently and conveyed a message from the Iranian president to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, confirming the invitation to al-Asad to visit Tehran.

Report Cited on Jordanian Elections, Palestinian Stand

JN0811131493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 8 November transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—In an article today, the French newspaper LE MONDE has commented on the Jordanian elections, saying an atmosphere of skepticism and disapointment surrounds these elections.

Cited by Radio Orient, the newspaper said that the hopes raised by democracy will neither flourish nor motivate the people because there is anxiety over the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This issue was almost absent from the election campaign because the majority of candidates want, in the first place, to represent the voters belonging to tribes and families.

LE MONDE added that the PLO and the Fatah Movement in particular have been involved in these elections at the request of King Husayn of Jordan in a bid to convince Jordanians of Palestinian origin to participate in, and support the peace process in face of its opponents. However, the Palestinian position is not united because the fundamentalist Palestinians have the same views as their Jordanian counterparts. In general, the Palestinians feel indifferent toward these elections.

The paper said the democratic atmosphere, which prevailed two years ago, has now retreated, and that lack of confidence in the future has created disappointment with the political process. It added that democracy appears to be of face value, and the new parliament will be divided and incapable of influencing the course of events.

NPF Holds Meeting, Decries 'Unilateral Agreements'

JN0711184293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1736 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA)—The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1800 today under the chairmanship of Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy leader of the NPF.

During the meeting, the NPF listened to a political report from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who gave a briefing on the latest political developments, particularly those pertaining to the peace process and Arab and international contacts in this regard.

The command also reviewed the current political situation and developments in the Arab, regional, and international arenas.

The Central Command of the NPF stressed the national and pan-Arab principles to which Syria adheres in its endeavor to establish just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. The command believes that Syrian policy expresses the conscience of the Arab nation and eagerness of its masses to protect pan-Arab existence and legitimate rights and regain all the occupied Arab territories and the usurped Arab rights. It also believes that unilateral agreements and partial solutions will further complicate the existing situation and weaken peace prospects in the region.

The Central Command of the NPF praised the great efforts President Hafiz al-Asad is exerting to defend national and pan-Arab rights and safeguard the Arab future. It also considers these efforts a natural continuation of the pan-Arab line to which Syria adheres.

At the end of its meeting, the command extended its heartfelt congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad on the approach of the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, which constitutes a qualitative step in the country's political, economic, and social life and which has made Syria an effective power on regional and international levels.

Commentary Views Israeli Remarks on Syria's Role

JN0411151993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Does the renewed talk by Israeli officials about the importance of a comprehensive peace and the impossibility of achieving that peace without Syria reflect a real and genuine change in the Israeli position? Until yesterday, following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel had voiced a completely contradictory position. As everyone remembers, after that agreement Israeli officials, with the prime minister and the foreign minister standing at the forefront, made many statements designed to belittle the Syrian role in the peace process, casting doubts on the sincerity of the Syrian position. So much so that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was warned by international parties concerned about the Middle East peace process about the gravity of ignoring the basic Syrian role in this process. He responded by asking those parties to avoid exaggerating Syria's role and to stop depicting Syria as a gigantic country.

The Israeli statements yesterday and today were completely different from those that followed the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What has happened? Have those officials arrived at the conclusion that Syria has a gigantic role that cannot be ignored? Or, as usual, are their statements truthful, but only to convey an evil message? Naturally, we are very interested to see Israeli officials returning to their senses every time they realize the incorrectness of their methods. However, in light of past experience, one can only feel skeptical about the new Israeli statements and whether they reflect a genuine conviction and a new orientation, or whether they are a tactical maneuver dictated by the circumstances of the negotiations on the partial agreement.

If Israeli officials have realized that the approach of dividing the solution and dealing with each Arab party separately will eventually lead only to killing the chance for peace, rather than establishing peace, and if their new statements show that they have learned by experience that their attempts after the Gaza-Jericho agreement to hinder a comprehensive solution, once on the pretext of the need for digesting the agreement and another on the pretext that the domestic situation of the Rabin government will not tolerate progress on more than one track, then it can be said that these statements reflect a new Israeli orientation that should not be ignored. But if these statements are nothing but a maneuver to imply a possible change in the Israeli position and a desire for progress on other tracks of peace just to influence the standstill or the sudden suspension of a specific track, then it should be said that this is an old Israeli game that cannot be peddled, especially in Syria.

The Israeli officials' testimony about the basic and crucial importance of the Syrian role in the search for a comprehensive peace contributes nothing new. Bigger and more important international parties of substantial influence on the peace process have already noted this. This testimony is only an acknowledgment of a truth known by anyone who is really interested in peace in this region. But if this reflects an actual conviction, then Israel should reaffirm its commitment to the Madrid formula and prove its readiness to meet all its obligations in accordance with the international resolutions in return for peace.

Press Emphasizes Syrian Stand of 'Overtness' in Talks

JN0611075393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 6 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN today comments about the Israeli allegations on secret talks between Syrian and Israeli officials. The paper says: Israeli officials did not hesitate to fabricate reports on a meeting held here and another held there while knowing well that Syria acts only in the open and that the principle of secrecy has no place in its political lexicon.

TISHRIN adds: Since the Madrid conference, Syria adopted the principle of acting publicly and has rejected all suspect invitations to hold parallel talks to the Washington talks in spite of the many enticements that it has been offered. Syria has managed to convince the U.S. sponsor of the need to move in the open on the basis that UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are explicit and need only to be implemented and their provisions applied, particularly with respect to the withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. The official spokesman's denial yesterday of the existence of any kind of secret contacts with Israel—at any location—has come as another confirmation of the Syrian firm stand on the principle of the overtness of the talks and of their being based on international legitimacy resolutions.

TISHRIN explains that while it affirms its abidance by the peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula based on international legitimacy and the principle of the comprehensiveness of the solution and the principle of land for peace, Syria now reiterates that it categorically refuses to hold any secret contacts with Israel at any level and criticizes any Arab party holding such unproductive contacts. This is because the experience of the not so distant past has proved that work in the dark has resulted in disasters for the Arabs, the loss of their rights, and bargaining on their principles. Syria will exert all efforts to end all types of suspect contacts with the enemy, and will not forsake any right or bargain on any principle. Withdrawal should be total, peace should be comprehensive, and security should be enjoyed by all. Syria will not be dragged into the pitfalls of secret action and its dark labyrinths.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria reiterates that the Washington talks are the only possible avenue for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace, and that the Madrid formula has defined this framework on whose basis the Washington talks have continued.

Rejection of Secret Talks Reiterated

JN0711083093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH comments on some media reports that Syria is holding secret talks with Israel. The paper affirms such reports proved to be unfounded. Syria always says that it does not work in the dark, and that it makes public all its beliefs, since it has no secrets of any kind, especially with regard to the peace process.

President al-Asad has said time and again that the Arab citizen has the right to be in the picture of what is happening at the peace talks. On this basis, Syria makes public its beliefs, and never overlooks this question, whatever the circumstances.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria always works against unilateral, partial solutions. It realizes that such solutions serve only Israel and its objectives.

Syria went to the Madrid conference and the Washington bilateral talks out of its concern that the peace talks should lead to a comprehensive settlement through which the Arabs can regain their rights in full. In order for this to happen, Syria has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance full, integrated coordination between the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the developments in the peace process have borne out Syria's sincere peace attitude, and that it is doubling its efforts to rescue the chance for peace.

The paper adds: When Syria concentrates on the need for progress on all fronts of the negotiations; insists on excluding transitional steps and partial, incomplete solutions; and sticks to the true, broad concept of peace envisioned by the resolutions of international legitimacy, it does so because it proceeds from a self-evident truth, namely, that if peace were not just and comprehensive and did not end all forms of injustice and occupation in the region, then it would not be a true, durable peace. It would also never rid the region of the tension and explosions threatening it constantly with more war tragedies.

The paper asserts that Syria wants peace, is working for it, and is sincerely seeking to consolidate an atmosphere of security and stability in the Middle East. Syria's desire for peace, however, does not mean it is ready to engage in behind-the-scenes negotiations conducted away from the eyes of the international community. Syria's desire for peace cannot also prompt it to be carried away by the illusions of partial, unilateral solutions planned by Israel to serve its long-term schemes and objectives.

Syria wants to work in the open and in accordance with the formula agreed on in Madrid to achieve peace. No doubt, Syria's adherence to the foundations of a just, comprehensive peace and its insistence on the full implementation of Security Council resolutions reflect its eagerness to take advantage of the peace opportunity to reach a solution that gives each party its rights and leads to the restoration of Arab rights and territory in full.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Israel, which has repeatedly adopted provocative stands contradicting any desire for a just, comprehensive peace, now has two options: It can either renounce the policy of aggression and extremism and accept the conditions that are in the interest of peace or pursue its current approach and stick to the policy of procrastination and deception, and consequently pass up the peace opportunity and drown the region in endless chaos and instability.

Under the headline "True, Lasting Peace," TISHRIN asserts that there can be no peace in the region without Syria. This fact cannot be ignored by anyone, because any peace without Syria would remain fragile and truncated and would not provide the requirements of security and stability in the Middle East.

If Israel cares about the security and stability of the region, then it must, first of all, acknowledge that it is impossible to bypass Syria's role.

TISHRIN adds: This is stressed by the Madrid formula, which is based on a just, comprehensive solution and not dividing the tracks of the negotiating process.

When Syria reiterates through repeated statements that peace cannot be begged for, that the Arabs are not standing in line waiting for Israel's mercy, and that withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will open a new chapter of stability and calm in the region, Syria thus reaffirms its concern to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. It also reasserts the possibility of rescuing the peace process from the Israeli obstacles and leading the peace process to the safety shore and to its real objectives that are supported by documents and pledges, even before the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN notes that developments have proven that unilateral peace and partial deals further complicate the situation and increase tension in the region. They also weaken the Arab position and give Israel the power to maintain its occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN asserts that out of its great concern to see the region enjoy stability, Syria will continue to adhere to a just, comprehensive solution and make every possible effort to establish justice and right and reach a solution that responds to Arab rights, restores Arab territory, and ends Israeli aggression, terrorism, suppression, and occupation. Only a solid position, insisting on the constants of the peace process, and commitment to the principle of land for peace would make the peace process achieve its desired objectives.

Bangladesh

Clashes Reported During Right-Wing Party Rally

BK0611143293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 6 (AFP)—Police used tear gas and batons to quell clashes between rival Bangladeshi groups during a rally here Saturday that left at least 30 people injured, witnesses said.

One witness said a rally of the Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) of ex-president Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed was marred after two home-made bomb exploded near the venue.

Shots were also fired during the rally as well as burst of automatic gunfire, but there were no reports of any one being injured from the rounds.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said several people reported with injuries, but left quickly. However, three people aged between 17 and 20 years were being treated for splinter wounds.

Police went into action when NDA supporters allegedly attacked the building of the National Sports Control Board. The protestors caused damage and harassed photographers, including one photographer from AFP covering the rally.

Several more home-made bombs were set-off as NDA supporters and commuters ran for cover, the witnesses said. The downtown was gripped by panic as shops pulled down shutters and vehicles fled the area.

The first bomb blast occured as a protest march of the main opposition Awami League (AL) after a court here sentenced one of its parliamentarians to life imprisonment for a murder he allegedly committed in 1980.

AL activists also briefly clashed with police, witnesses said.

Police could not be reached for comment.

NDA leader Anwar Zahid shouted over a microphone:"Allahu Akbar" or "God is great" and "Indian agents will be punished," a veiled reference to the AL of Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

Mushtaque became Bangladesh's president after this volatile south Asian country's founding president and Wajed's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed in a 1975 bloody military coup.

He formed the NDA this year along with several other rigtwing groups, including a faction of the Freedom Party led by retired colonel Abdur Rashid, who is said to be one of the coup leaders.

"If the coup did not take place, then the Indian flag would have been flying here now," Mushtaque, who was Rahman's cabinet colleague, was quoted as saying at the rally, which briefly resumed after clashes ended.

The NDA accuses AL of being agents of neighbouring India, which helped Bangladesh in its 1971 independence war against Pakistan.

'Stranded' Pakistanis To Be Repatriated in Dec

BK0511131293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh is expected to begin next month. This was stated by the project director of Rabta al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League] Trust, (Shaykh Wahid al-Jumedan), in Dhaka Thursday prior to his departure for Pakistan at the end of his two-day visit to Bangladesh. He said he is optimistic about the repatriation of all the 41,000 families of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh. The trust has adequate funds to meet the expenditures for repatriation. Mr. (al-Jumedan) said Rabta leaders are expected to meet newly elected Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto next week to discuss matters relating to expediting the process of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh.

More Burmese Refugees Return 'Voluntarily'

BK0511134593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Another batch of 515 Rohingya refugees voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps in Teknaf in Cox's Bazaar Thursday. With this the total number of repatriated persons now stood at 45,214.

Dhaka Condemns Human Rights Violation in Kashmir

BK0511063793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 1 Nov 93 p 1

[By Diplomatic Reporter]

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed concern over the situation in Kashmir. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, briefing reporters yesterday said that Bangladesh wants a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem. He said that for this reason, his country is in favor of a dialogue between India and Pakistan on the issue. The foreign secretary added that resolution of this problem is possible through talks. Rahman said that Bangladesh is against the dumping of arms in any mosque whether it is in Kashmir or in any other place. He said that Bangladesh condemns violation of human rights in Kashmir. The foreign secretary said that the SAARC [South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation] ministerial meeting will be held in Dhaka on December 4 and 5. He said at this meeting decisions will be made regarding implementation of programs taken up by this forum.

Rahman disclosed that the Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission meeting will be held in Dhaka on December 6 and 7. The Bangladesh side at this meeting will be led by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman while the Indian delegation will be led by Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee. He further said that Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh will not be able to come to Dhaka because he is sick.

In reply to a question, the foreign secretary said that the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has been invited to visit Bangladesh. This invitation was extended during the visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to New Delhi last May. In reply to another question, the foreign secretary said that he sees no reason the relationship between the two countries should deteriorate due to the raising of the water-sharing problems with India at the United Nations by Bangladesh.

Referring to the change of government in Pakistan, the foreign secretary said that friendly relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan will continue.

India

Kashmir Shrine Crisis Continues; Talks Held

BK0811162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, efforts continue to persuade the militants holed up in the Hazratbal shrine to come out. The mediators involved in the efforts today went inside the shrine to talk to the militants. Their leader talked to the civil authorities. The director general of police said at a news conference that the government remains committed to a fair solution to the issue. Some unusual movements of militants and others were seen for the first time inside the old namaz [prayer] hall of the shrine almost throughout last night. The subarea commander, Brigadier K.P.S. Kanwar, told newsmen this afternoon that this could be the result of some anxiety among them for being holed up continuously for the last 25 days. The situation in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley remains peaceful and no major untoward incident has been reported. Precautionary curfew now in force in only one police station area of Srinagar was relaxed for four hours in some localities. The special secretary in the union Home Ministry, Mr. V.K. Jain, who is now in Srinagar, has been reviewing the situation with senior officers of the state government and the security forces.

The chief of the Army Staff, General B.C. Joshi, says that the Inter Service Intelligence, ISI, of Pakistan is behind the occupation of the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. He was talking to newsmen in Pune today. Replying to a question, Gen. Joshi said the Army is having excellent coordination with the civil administration in handling the crisis.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. Jyoti Basu has appealed to the militants holed up inside the Hazratbal shrine to surrender. Talking to newsmen in Kanpur today, he supported the steps taken by the center to deal with the situation.

Situation 'Peaceful' 9 Nov

BK0911035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the chief government negotiator, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, had direct talks for about half an hour with militants yesterday, who—unlike others—did not cover their faces. The Army spokesman, Brigadier K.P.S. Kanwar, said that last night three boys had approached the security forces on duty for some cigarettes, apparently in a bid to come out, but seem to be scared of militants inside. The civil authorities are continuing direct as well as indirect negotiations with the holed-up militants to persuade them to vacate the Hazratbal Shrine so that its sanctity is restored. The state police chief, Mr. Mahinder Sabharwal, said that the government is keen on finding a fair and reasonable solution to the 26-day-old tangle within the bounds of law. The situation is peaceful with only one police station area in Srinagar city under curfew.

Visiting Iranian Official Lauds Kashmir Policy

BK0811162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Iran has appreciated India's efforts to safeguard the interests of the Muslims. This was conveyed to the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, by the visiting first deputy foreign minister of Iran, Mr. Ala-ed-Din Borujerdi, in New Delhi today. Mr. Borujerdi said India is following a wise policy of seeking a settlement of the Kashmir issue keeping out attempts at interference by external powers. Referring to Hazratbal, the Iranian minister complimented the Government of India for the restraint and safeguarding the sanctity of religious places. During their meeting, Mr. Dinesh Singh briefed the visiting dignitary on the status of India's dialogue with the Islamic Conference Organization, a process in which Iran has assured to play a useful and constructive role.

Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the two sides exchanged views on the common problems of development, the growing menace of transborder terrorism, and other issues of mutual concern.

Earlier during the day, the Iranian deputy foreign minister held discussions with the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, on bilateral issues. The two sides felt that India and Iran are involved in national reconstruction and countering various external pressures.

Editorial Blames U.S. for Pakistani Moves in Kashmir

BK0811105193 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Our Stake in the Valley"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton's irresponsible observation in a speech at the UN, describing and equating the situation in Kashmir with the untidy ethnic upheavals in Bosnia, Angola and the Caucasus, was the scout-master's nod of approval that the Pakistani adventurers were looking for. And they grabbed it with unrestrained glee. Almost the first act of Prime Minister-elect Benazir Bhutto was to rush to Cyprus with a manuscript of complaints on India's abuse of human rights in Kashmir—in contravention of CHOGM's [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] norm of not entertaining bilateral issues. But with Mr. Clinton waving the green flag, this air-dash of Ms. Bhutto, a U.S. protege, was hardly surprising and fitted neatly into the old campaign, berating India over Kashmir. And Ms. Bhutto has reportedly assured her cabinet colleagues of her determination to poot in the Kashmir issue at various international forums. And she did indeed try and wheedle King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nayhan of the UAE to talk [as published] India into lifting the siege at Hazratbal. And in this new climate of questioning India's sovereignty, following Mr. Clinton's woolly value judgement on Kashmir and his wacky parallel of the Valley with Bosnia, Pakistan has given itself the liberty of putting its troops on red alert. This licence may well prove costly. Particularly if India can shed her customary timidity on the Clinton agenda in Kashmir and appear less self-consciously squeamish about India baiting in the West. Now that the National Integration Council has given the government a free hand in defusing the Hazratbal crisis, there is absolutely no justification for any further dithering and the cross-purposes in which the centre, the State government and the security forces have been working. There is no gainsaying that fresh blood is being pumped into the blood-stream of the holed militants by the infamous ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] of Pakistan and the Afghan condottieri. Still the security forces and the State government would know how to end the desecration of the Hazratbal shrine, or any other shrine, by the armed bands which are using the mosque as a fortress. At this stage, it would be suicidally silly to keep the international community smiling rather than keep our own house in order to ensure that our integrity and security are not compromised. And we cannot afford to gamble away this chance by what is an inadequate response to a problem that is getting both stickier and riskier every day. The elections are upon us and our political parties are going the whole hog in an advertising blitz of mutual recriminations and a holier-than-thou attitude, when they should have been sitting together to work out a national policy on Kashmir to defend India's national and territorial integrity. If our political parties, regardless of their policy differences, do not bind themselves to work out a common approach to the grave situation unfolding in Kashmir then they will be sleepwalkingly taking the nation towards wreck and ruin.

Update Says 9 Killed, 23 Injured in Nagaland Blast

BK0811134493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Nine persons, including three Assam Rifles jawans [soldiers], were killed and 23 injured, 10 of them of seriously, in a powerful bomb explosion at the Dimapur railway station in Nagaland this morning. AIR [All India Radio] Kohima correspondent reports that the explosion took place at the crowded platform soon after the Kamrup Express arrived from Guwahati at about 1040 this morning. The bomb was reportedly concealed in a bag. The commissioner of Nagaland, the director general of state police, and GOC [General Officer Commanding] of Nagaland along with a team of bomb experts rushed to Dimapur. The home commissioner told our correspondent that security measures in Dimapur town have been tightened. Rail traffic on the route has not been affected by the explosion.

Pakistani Ranger Killed on Kashmir Border 8 Nov

BK0911030693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one more Pakistani Ranger was killed yesterday in an exchange of fire with the BSF [Border Security Force] in Ramgarh sector in Jammu District. Three Pakistani Rangers had been killed in the same area on Sunday.

The intermittent heavy firing between the two sides continued on the second day yesterday. There was no casualties on the Indian side.

Iran

Air France Office, French Embassy in Tehran Bombed

LD0911120493 Paris France-Info Radio in French 1145 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] There were bomb explosions this morning in the French Embassy and Air France premises in Tehran. One person was wounded by a grenade explosion in the premises of the airline. Two bombs exploded in the yard of the diplomatic mission without causing any casualties. The Hezbollah claim responsibility for these actions.

One Injury in Attack

LD0911123593 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—A group of unidentified people attacked the French Embassy and Air France office in Tehran Tuesday.

The attack took place one day after the French Foreign Ministry officials formally confirmed the news that the third wife of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] Organization (MKO) ringleader has travelled to Paris.

According to French official sources in Tehran, one person suffered minor injuries in the attack, for which no group has yet claimed responsibility.

But a person who identified himself as a spokesman for the victims of the MKO-perpetrated crimes, speaking to IRNA on telephone, claimed responsibility for the assault. The caller said, "This is our first reaction to the admission to France of one of the MKO ringleaders."

"Munafiqeen (hypocrites, a term usually used as a reference to the MKO members in Iran) are enemies of the Iranian Muslim people and there is no acceptable justification for France's admission of terrorists...French authorities in Paris should reconsider this issue," the caller said before hanging up.

Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, the third wife of the MKO ringleader Mas'ud Rajavi, has been in Paris for about 10 days. After preventing the break out of the news on her stay in Paris for a week, the French radio finally confirmed the news Saturday night.

Maryam Rajavi is said to have left Iraq because of intra-group differences. It is also said that Rajavi himself had attempted to leave Iraq but the Baghdad officials prevented his departure.

Activists Claim Responsibility

NC0911113093 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov 9 (AFP)—[passage omitted] An anonymous caller to AFP claimed the attacks on behalf of the "Hezbollah of Southern Tehran," a group of Islamic activists taking their name from the poorer suburbs of the capital.

The attacks were a "first warning" against France for giving refuge to Maryam Rajavi, wife of the leader of the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], the main armed opposition to the Iranian government.

"It's to punish them and so they know that we are serious," the caller said.

"A man opened the door and threw a grenade which exploded with a lot of noise and smoke, breaking the windows," an Air France employee said. An unidentified person was injured by flying glass.

He said the assailant fled on a motorbike driven by an accomplice.

An embassy spokesman said two grenades exploded in the courtyard, apparently hurled over the wall. After the attack, the embassy issued an official request for the Iranian authorities to protect the mission. [passage omitted]

Two 'Ranking MKO Agents' Arrested

LD0611114193 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 6, IRNA—A senior military official announced that in the course of last month military attacks by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) against border villages in western Iran, eight civilians were killed.

Speaking to local reporters on Wednesday [3 November], Brigadier General Hoseyndust added that the two ranking MKO agents responsible for the attacks were arrested.

He said that available documents as well as confessions by the detained MKO agents indicated that the MKO planned its coordinated assaults against Iranian border areas two months ago in a session presided over by Maryam Qajar-Azodanlu, the third wife of MKO terrorists' leader, Mas'ud Rajavi.

The MKO launched their assaults a month ago with the cooperation of an Iraqi military's intelligence branch, said Brigadier General Hoseyndust.

He noted that in three cases of their terrorist activities, the MKO deployed 4-member squads comprised of three men and one woman.

Earlier reports from western border areas indicated that two children, a 12-year old girl and a 63-year old man were killed and seven civilians injured as a result of terrorist attacks by the MKO against those areas.

Detained MKO agents have confessed that Rajavi had claimed that the objective behind MKO vicious activity in border areas was to panic border dwellers to pave the way for a future military attack.

Maryam Qajar-Azodanlu, recently elected "the president of Iran" by MKO members, has promised to "conquer Tehran." However, unconfirmed reports say that she has recently arrived in Paris.

The MKOs arrested recently have revealed that those MKO members who had criticized the MKO policy of attacks against civilians had been arrested for insubordination had been detained in MKO camps, 12 kms from Baghdad.

The official, showing relevant documents to the reporters, reiterated that Iranian border officials reserved the right to defend the Iranian people.

He stressed that border officials would not leave unanswered any movements of the puppet agents whenever necessary.

Western parts of the country, whose border villages have been the target of MKO assaults, sustained extensive blows due to Iraqi attacks during the 1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war and has been given priority by the government for post-war reconstruction.

MKO Leader Denies Rumors of Attempting To Flee

LD0711193493 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Kermanshah, Nov. 7, IRNA—Ringleader of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) Mas'ud Rajavi in a statement released in Iraq Sunday [7 November] denied what he referred to as "recent rumors" about his attempt to flee Iraq.

According to the statement, the second husband of the self-styled "president of Iran" Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, expressed hope that he would be able to live in Iran in an opportune time when "an absolute majority of people" would support him.

The MKO ringleader, however, did not elaborate on how and when he would come to Iran. At present all current expenses of Rajavi's terrorist group are met by the Iraqi Army.

In another development, sister of the defunct Shah, Ashraf Pahlavi, in an interview with a Turkish daily last week, claimed that she would come to Iran and settle here one day.

Whereabouts of MKO Leader, Wife Detailed

LD0811151793 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Maryam Ghajar Azodanlu, the third wife of Mas'ud Rajavi, ringleader of the terrorist mujahideen khalgh [Mojahedin-e Khalq] organization (MKO), has been in Paris for the last ten days, Radio France monitored here announced last night. Quoting sources close to MKO, the radio said it was not clear whether Azodanlu would stay in Paris for a long time or her stay would be temporary. Mehdi Abrishamchi, Rajavi's aide, accompanies Azodanlu who was once married to Abrishamchi before her marriage to Rajavi, added the radio.

Intra-group differences has been the main reason behind Azodanlu's decision to leave MKO bases in Iraq and travel to France, reported the radio.

Earlier reports indicated that Rajavi had already tried to flee Iraq but due to restrictions imposed by the Iraqi regime had failed to do so. Following the Iraqi ban on Rajavi's exit from Iraq, the ringleader of the MKO, in a statement released in Iraq earlier said staying in the vicinity of Iran-Iraq border was the most suitable measure for leading and supervising operations against Tehran.

Rajavi has several times threatened to attack Tehran in the last month.

In the summer of 1988, in a futile attempt to reach Tehran, Rajavi dispatched his forces to Iranian western borders where he had to withdraw as several thousands of his forces were killed and wounded.

A commander of Iran's border guards stressed that Iran would reserve the right to respond to MKO's pernicious terrorist activities and that the Iranian military and Law Inforcement Forces were fully prepared to respond to such attempts.

Commentary on Israel's Motives in Meeting King Husayn

NC0711201893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] According to confirmed reports, King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met secretly for nine hours at the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah last week. The talks centered on the peace process and the future of economic cooperation among Israel, Jordan, and the autonomous region in occupied Palestine after Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. The meeting between King Husayn and Israel's Peres followed a series of contacts between Jordanian and Israeli officials since the draft bilateral agenda for peace talks was signed on 14 September.

Israel is obviously seeking bilateral peace deals with the other Arab countries involved in the peace negotiations, parallel to its agreement with the PLO. Since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel has been making intensive efforts and holding bilateral and secret contacts in the region to realize this objective.

Israel's first step in this respect was the signing of a bilateral agreement on the resumption of economic, political, and commercial activity with Jordan. This took place just one day after the signing of the Rabin-'Arafat agreement. After this, and as part of the efforts to advance the peace process and implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement through Egyptian-U.S. mediation, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with the Jordanian crown prince last month. They primarily discussed the formation of a joint economic committee with the United States. The meeting resulted in significant progress. Indeed, the objective of forming this committee was to pave Israel's way to Arab markets. Through its peace agreements with the Arab countries, Israel seeks to firm up its roots in the region and abolish the Arab boycott against it, which has been in force for more than four decades. Zionist officials admitted that the boycott has inflicted huge losses on the Israeli economy over this period.

Meanwhile, there were reports that the Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs met with the director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Paris a few days ago. The meeting, attended by U.S. officials, was held within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Israeli-American committee formed in Washington in October.

Amid all these developments in the Middle East, the Syrian position draws one's attention. Syria, as one of the main Middle East countries, has stressed that any agreement with the Zionist entity is conditional on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. From this perspective, some political observers believe that the Jordanian-Israeli meeting can be viewed, on one hand, as pressure to push the Middle East peace process, and, on the other hand, as an attempt to create a rift in Arab ranks and pressure Syria.

Based on this premise, Zionist officials have recently said that Israel will reach an agreement with Syria before the end of this year. In any event, it is no longer a secret to anyone that the Zionist entity, through overt and covert political and diplomatic activity, seeks to open channels for bilateral negotiations with the Arab countries to achieve its planned objectives.

But the question remains as to why Jordan insists on concealing this issue, which the entire world knows about. One must look for the answer in Jordan's parliamentary elections tomorrow, where no less than 40 percent of eligible voters are Palestinians.

Commentary Views Syrian Stance in Arab-Israeli Talks

LD0811175093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The highest political institution in Syria—the National Progressive Front, which is headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, announced yesterday that minor and partial solutions to the Middle East crisis would have the effect of further complicating the crisis and destroying suitable opportunities.

At its meeting yesterday, the National Progressive Front, which groups the country's seven official parties, including the ruling Ba'th Party, heard a report by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', and discussed developments in the regional peace efforts, expressing support for the policy of Damascus on the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace based on international legal regulations and Security Council resolutions.

Syria's statement of policy, expressed by the country's highest political institution, is in fact a negative response by Syria to the policies of Tel Aviv on reaching separate agreements with Arab countries, including Syria. With American support, Israel has consistently tried to create differences in the Arab camp and to reach separate deals with the Arab countries. Following the Egyptian-Israeli deal in Camp David, the 'Arafat-Tel Aviv agreement is the second separate deal between an Arab side and Israel.

The leaders of the Zionist regime, while seeking to create gaps in the disunited Arab front, also seek to weaken or destroy support behind the front lines. This is done through alternate meetings between officials of some Arab countries and those of the Zionist regime, or through the spreading of reports on secret discussions or covert meetings between the Zionist regime and Arab leaders. This policy of the occupying regime, which has gradually taken the form of psychological warfare and a diplomatic offensive, has now become a serious danger, thanks to the negligence of some Arab leaders and American support for them. Understanding the consequent domestic, regional, and international dangers of this process, Syria has intensified its opposition to separate and secret negotiations as well as individual deals, and is thus seeking to block the Israeli policy of divide and rule. It is not therefore without reason that the leaders in Tel Aviv should sometimes seek in their propaganda to spread rumors of secret negotiations with Syria, in order to cast doubt on the Syrian stance.

In its policy on the negotiations for an agreement, Syria has emphasized two things: first: a comprehensive plan, which means abstention from separate deals; second: a just peace, which means an Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and an end to the occupation of Arab lands. Syria's reference to Arab lands is a reference to sectors occupied in 1967, and not the sectors of Palestine occupied before that date, but Syria does put a practical condition which Israel—with its claims of sovereignty over the sacred Qods—does not accept. Syrian reliance on international law and Security Council resolutions aims at strengthening the second of the demands—a just peace—put forward by Damascus.

These laws and resolutions condemn the occupation of land through war and call for the withdrawal of the aggressor. But the main problem lies in the fact that the superpowers do not intend to solve the crisis on the basis of justice and law. Rather, they seek to solve their own problems and to remove obstacles in the way of their permanent hegemony and of the imposition of Israeli supremacy in the region. The superpowers therefore give unconditional support to the Zionist regime and concentrate their pressure on Arab countries, in particular Syria.

Velayati M[illegible]s Hizballah Leader, Pledges Support

LD0711200793 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today hoped that the oppressed people of Lebanon would continue to defend their territorial integrity through the unity of all groups.

Velayati in a meeting with Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah said Iran will continue its support for Lebanon's territorial integrity and the Islamic resistance "until the total liberation of the occupied territories of Lebanon."

Earlier in the meeting Nasrallah reported on the latest developments in Lebanon and the Zionist moves in the occupied parts of the country.

More Iraqi Refugees Arrive in Khuzestan Province

LD0811180793 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 8, IRNA—Another 148 Iraqis seeking refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran have recently arrived in Hur-ol-Hoveyzeh region in this southern border province.

The new group of refugees are mainly from al-'Amarah and al-Basrah marshlands in south of Iraq. In their talk to IRNA, the refugees pointed to deterioration of situation in the marshlands.

'Ali 'Abd-al-Sattar from al-'Amarah said with escalation of attacks and deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against residents of al-'Amarah and al-Basrah, more Iraqi refugees are expected to arrive in Iran. Another refugee, Nazim Nasir, said a number of Iraqis have been killed in Iraq's chemical attack on southern marshlands, adding that Baghdad regime prevents transfer of fuel and foodstuffs to the area. Therefore, he said, a severe winter is expected in the marshlands.

Presently, there are 552 Iraqi refugees in Hur-ol-Hoveyzeh region. Describing the condition of the new refugees as "deplorable", Governor of Dasht-e Azadegan B. Kazemi said the refugees are in need of foodstuffs, clothes, blankets, kerosine and drinkable water. Some 25 Iraqi families are presently in Tabur border region, a point where the refugees arrive in Iran from southern Iraqi marshlands.

Some 4,610 Iraqi refugees were transferred from Hur-ol-Hoveyzeh to Jahrom and [place name indistinct] provinces, last month.

Paper Warns Against Helping Iraq

NC0711135293 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 21 Oct 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Isolation of Iraq and Our Stance"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi regime is silently moving to end its international isolation and the political-economic sanctions against it and to become active in the field of regional and international issues. [passage omitted]

Iraq is trying to emerge from its isolation, and the West wants to help in this. During the past few months certain incidents have taken place that show that Iran's role and situation are being significantly considered.

One of our basic policies is having logical relations based on the principles of the revolution and our country's and nation's interests. Iraq is viewed as our neighbor and a country where the people have deep cultural and religious ties to us. But these points cannot form a principled and correct basis for regulating political-economic relations with a regime that is known as the most inhuman and savage regime in the world today. The Ba'thist government of Iraq, led by Saddam Husayn has, in recent years, established a rule of terror and suppression and has resorted to the most inhuman measures in annihilating the Muslim people of Iraq. Saddam's ambitions and his colonialist views, as well as his hostility toward Muslims and Iran resulted in the eight years of a war which will never be forgotten by our people. In the past we have also seen how, despite the will of the Iraqi people and despite what Iraqi interests dictate, Saddam has wasted Iraq's national wealth and caused the deaths of thousands of innocent people. Recently, Saddam has also been resorting to the most savage methods to annihilate the Iraqi Muslims.

It is true that the world of arrogance refrains from dealing with Iraq's domestic affairs because of its own interests. But the truth is that southern Iraq is like a hell where the executioner Saddam perpetrates a fresh crime each day. We cannot ignore this important issue and take steps that are not politically expedient and do things that will ultimately help to strengthen Saddam's regime—a regime that has revealed its enmity toward the Iranian nation and government and spares no efforts in displaying this hostility.

Undoubtedly it should be said that our diplomatic policy toward Iraq is not correct diplomacy. Holding talks about the solution of problems that stem from the war and concern the Resolution [598] and other related issues are ordinary measures. But they cannot be linked to political relations. Placing emphasis on talks that are aimed at improving and expanding relations, and so on, is useless and wrong and it will be simple-minded for us to think that under the rule of Saddam's regime the Muslim people of Iran will be granted the opportunity to make pilgrimages to the holy shrines in Iraq.

America and Israel and their ally Saddam fear the growing religious and Islamic feelings, and all these massacres, murders, and wars which America, Israel and Saddam are imposing on the Muslim nations in the region stem from this fear.

Therefore, how can we even think that we can solve problems through such relations? This can be achieved only when a popular and Muslim government comes to power in Iraq. Such relations with the Iraqi regime and Saddam would be tantamount to scoffing at the Muslim, pious, and militant people of Iraq, who have pinned their hopes on us.

Helping Iraq to emerge from its isolation in no way accords with our national interests, and our Islamic policy does not allow us to help a regime that is proud of its criminal character, of massacring its people, and of its hostility to Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Commentary Views Tunisian Elections

NC0811111893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine has announced that presidential and parliamentary elections will be held there early in the New Year. Yesterday he also announced his candidacy for a second term as president.

Speaking on the occasion of the commencement of the sixth year of his taking over power in a bloodless coup against Habib Bourguiba, the former president-for-life of Tunisia, Zine al-Abidine stressed that the revamping of electoral laws will permit the Tunisian parliament to become a multiparty parliament. This is the first time that opposing factions will be permitted to enter the parliament.

In fact, a year after he removed Bourguiba from power Zine al-Abidine was able to hold the first presidential elections. In practice, however, the powers of the Judiciary and the Executive remained the monopoly of the ruling party and the legal democratic clique. In the course of the past six [as heard] years, the electoral system has been reorganized in such a manner that none of the opposing parties could enter parliament.

The most important opposition party in Tunisia is the Islamic Ennahda movement, which had been engaged in a power struggle and confrontation with Bourguiba prior to Ben Ali's assuming of power. The activities of this movement was once again banned before Ben Ali's emergence on the political scene. It does not have permission to participate in the elections even now. The Tunisian Government is striving to impose an electoral pattern on the country without involving any Islamic or religious factions. Even though it has been able in practice to thwart the introduction of Islamists onto the official political scene and in the government, it has not been able to mitigate the power and influence of this movement.

The success of the Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in that country's elections in practice seriously raised the issue of Islamism and the need for an upheaval in the rigid and semi-rigid systems, especially in the countries of North Africa and the Arab Maghreb. Even though they stemmed the trend of popularizing the Algerian system, the continuing crisis in Algeria indicates the strengthening of this trend.

Some political observers believe that changes in the electoral laws in Tunis and the inclusion of the opposition parties in the parliament have been influenced by this very trend. The only ambiguity and discrepancy that remains in this regard is that the Islamic factions—who represent an important segment of the Tunisian Muslims' popular opinion—are not being allowed to participate.

Foreign Ministry Urges Halt to Afghan Fighting

LD0811210293 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday [8 November] called all Afghan groups involved in the current clashes around Kabul to put away arms and seek a peaceful settlement of their disputes.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Dr. Mohammadi, today expressed concern about current fightings near Kabul and said the Islamic Republic urgently recommends all parties to discontinue clashes as soon as possible.

Student Protest Broken Up By Revolutionary Guards

PM0511162693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Revolutionary Guards Clash With Student Demonstration Hostile to Rafsanjani in Tehran"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—At least 20 people were injured and scores arrested when a student demonstration hostile to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani clashed with Revolutionary Guard forces in Tehran yesterday. Police sources have said that no more than 400 students took part in the demonstration. They gathered opposite the gate of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran to mark the 14th anniversary of occupying it and holding the U.S. diplomats as hostages.

The Iranian Government had banned demonstrations on this occasion, abandoning a 14-year tradition. But hard-line Khomeyni-ites ignored the ban and told "the real followers of the imam" to meet at the embassy building.

A statement was issued by 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the radical mullah who was interior minister in the days of Khomeyni, condemning Rafsanjani and describing him as "an ambitious politician who is prepared to use the revolution to achieve personal gains." Demonstrators shouted slogans like "Rafsanjani, Do Not Sell Martyrs' Blood" and "War, War Until Victory."

Those who called for and supervised the demonstration claim that over 10,000 people participate in it. But eyewitnesses say that no more than 1,000 people took part in the demonstration before they were dispersed by the Revolutionary Guards. Demonstrators carried portraits of Khomeyni and burned an effigy of President Bill Clinton and the U.S. flag.

Analysts believe that the demonstration is significant, for two reasons: First, it points to a revival of the activity of an organization known as the "Students Following the Imam's Line." It is the organization which occupied the embassy and held the diplomats hostage in 1979. This organization was officially dissolved in 1989 following Khomeyni's death. Many of its members held important posts and jobs, and some of them became ministers, undersecretaries, governors, and ambassadors.

The most extremist members were killed either in the war against Iraq or by execution because of their links with Montazeri [Khomeyni's successor]. A number of students are in prison on charges of carrying out activities hostile to the state.

Yesterday's demonstration showed that the PLO, which was accused of loyalty to communism in 1979, is still alive and seems to be planning a return to the political scene.

The second reason which renders yesterday's demonstration a significant event is that Rafsanjani's adversaries inside the regime have—so it seems—decided to move the power struggle to the street.

Over the past 14 years Iran has witnessed a number of demonstrations against the authorities. They were all suppressed by violence. But this is the first time supporters of the revolution have embarked on attacking the government in the streets.

Yesterday's demonstration was staged with a financial crisis in the background, as the Central Bank reduced the exchange rate of the Iranian riyal for the third successive day. In just three days the Iranian riyal has lost 10 percent of its value on the free market.

Analysts believe that the mystery surrounding the position of the "supreme guide," 'Ali Khamene'i, has encouraged radicals to test the situation. Khamene'i has in recent years clipped Rafsanjani's "wings," confirming his position as the supreme leader of the regime and the decisionmaker in Iran.

In a message addressed to students, 'Ali Khamene'i, Iran's "supreme guide," accused the United States of seeking through the negotiations with Iran to distort the image of Khomeyni and the Islamic Revolution. He added: "Those inside the country who are talking about negotiations with the United States are naive, timid, and immature." He was referring to a message sent recently by Deputy Sa'id 'Ali Raja'i Khorasani, in which he proposed holding negotiations with Washington.

Khorasani, a prominent member of the moderate tendency inside the Iranian parliament, proposed to the Iranian leaders to take the first step by initiating direct negotiations with the United States in order to normalize relations with Washington.

Khamene'i, Nateq-Nuri Back Demonstrators

PM0811104693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Statement From 'Supreme Guide' Gives Go-Ahead; Tehran Demonstrators Defy Ban With Encouragement From Khamene'i and Nuri"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—At least 2,000 people staged a demonstration in front of the former U.S. Embassy building in Tehran, defying the decision to ban demonstrations issued by the Interior Ministry three days ago.

It seems that the demonstrators received the "go-ahead" from the "supreme guide" 'Ali Khamene'i, who said in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio that "fighting the great U.S. satan" remains a principal aim for the revolution. The statement publicly opposed the Iranian Government's policy.

These developments are tantamount to a direct insult to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who tried to ban demonstrations on the 14th anniversary of occupying the U.S. Embassy and holding those in it as hostages.

Iranian radio and television stations controlled by Rafsanjani's wing tried to conceal the president's defeat by claiming that yesterday's gathering was aimed at marking the occasion of Khomeyni's exile from the country in 1964. All news bulletin emphasized the coincidence of this date and the anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Embassy in 1979. The defamation against Rafsanjani was clearer when parliament speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, a mullah who is becoming increasingly powerful, joined Khamene'i and announced that the holding of the hostages "was a noble, great, and heroic action by our faithful young men."

In an unusually sharply worded speech Nateq-Nuri, who it is often said will succeed Rafsanjani as head of state, said that the Islamic republic "is in a state of war" with the United States.

He stressed that "we are engaging in an ideological and political war against the great U.S. satan." He added: "We are willing to continue the war until complete victory."

Despite Khamene'i's and Nateq-Nuri's support for the demonstration at the last moment, those planning the demonstration failed to attract large numbers of people. Only a small number, mostly professional demonstrators, joined the demonstration, according to eyewitnesses.

Majles Deputy Opposes Compromise With U.S.

LD0711194293 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—An Iranian parliamentarian here Sunday [7 November] said Iran's strong opposition to the West, led by the U.S., stems from the two contradicting cultures—Western materialism and Islamic civilization.

'Ali Reza Sadra, member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee and deputy for Dezful, Khuzestan Province, told IRNA that since Islamic civilization and Western culture contradicted each other, their governments and systems could not compromise with each other.

Rejecting any relation between Iran and the U.S., Sadra called for adoption of a comprehensive, practical formula for Iran's foreign policy, specially for encountering the U.S.

The deputy stressed that due to such a major dispute, any effort to bring Iran and the U.S. closer was doomed to failure.

Commenting on the world situation, Sadra said the U.S., in order to achieve its own interests, was using all available military, economic and political means to practice its own new world order.

Such a new world order is aimed at establishing a uni-polar system with U.S. on the top and Europe, Canada and Japan in the middle and the Third World at the bottom.

"In order to implement its plan, the U.S. tries to exploit all international and regional organizations such as the United Nations and Security Council, to serve its interests," he added.

More in the interview, Sadra said that Iran's disagreement with such destructive trends in the international scene and the global spread of Islam were the major causes of Washington's "hostility" with Tehran.

"The interests of Iran and of the Islamic world require that this new world order not to be materialized and efforts be made to set up a kind of multi-polar system by the Islamic world as the major part of it."

"The Islamic world's willingness to turn into a powerful pole in the world's political dicision-making scene is legitimate and due to its population, high economic potentials and geo-politics it is a justifiable request."

Referring to the cultural alienation and spiritual crisis in the West, Sadra said this showed that the Western system "was heading towards collapse."

Ruling out unity between the U.S. and Europe despite their common civilizations, the Majles deputy said Europe, in some cases, even opposed the U.S. policies and objectives.

"Iran can, through proper and systematic planning, use this difference (between the U.S. and Europe) to promote its own interest with that of the Islamic world and to counter Washington's objectives. It can also use this to prevent Europe from playing its role as the pillar of the new world order."

Stressing the need for reduction of trade and economic relations with the U.S. to its lowest point, Sadra added that the idea that relations with the American companies and trade centers was different from relations with the U.S. Government "is wrong."

"To establish extended economic relations (with the U.S.) not only is not correct but unjustifiable for a country claiming to be anti-U.S.," he said.

Elsewhere in his talks, Sadra stressed the need for Iran's further activities in the Muslim-populated republics of Central Asia and Caucasia.

He also urged the Majles officials to formulate a codified strategy for Iran's foreign policy based on the orders of the late Imam Khomeyni.

U.S. Attempts To Isolate Iran Called 'Doomed'

LD0711184593 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—An English daily here Sunday [7 November] editorialized on German-Iran friendly relations as well as U.S. attempts to drive Iran into political isolation.

Referring to Iran's policy towards other countries, the daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' noted that the United States has so far failed to forge relations with Iran and for that reason is trying to disrupt Iran's good ties with other countries.

"The U.S. is pursuing two objectives in its attempts to drive Iran into political isolation. One, to exert pressure on Iran so that it will be forced to accept the Western countries' conditions which will naturally be determined by the U.S. Two, to prevent the Islamic Republic from enjoying a prominent position on the international scene and being turned into an ideal pattern for other countries, because the growth of Islam will threaten the American interests," the article said.

The paper underlined that the U.S. follows its expansionist policies in some of the countries in the region as well as in other parts of the world, without regard for human rights in those countries.

"But the American attempts to disrupt Iran's relations with other countries are doomed, for Iran is significant in a variety of ways," the daily concluded.

Editorial Views Western Media 'Uproar'

NC0811132193 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Western Media's Uproar"]

[Excerpts] The uproar created by the U.S. and British media over Iran's relations with the United States in the past few days has necessitated a more serious appraisal of the collective problems that we have with the Western governments. The question that now arises is: What is the motivation of the British and U.S. media by generating such a clamor and what important development has taken place in Iranian and German relations that has caused such a reaction and outcry? [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that our current distinctive position in international relations has been responsible to a great extent for this hue and cry and that we should not allow such an uproar to constitute the sole basis of our actions. Of course, it is certain that relations with Western countries will never be the same as it was four decades ago. However, these countries do have common cultural, economic, and political denominators that makes them join together during sensitive times.

In any case, these issues are full of complexities that invite us to ponder them intensively. Regarding international relations, we enjoy a characteristic position that we must continue to maintain with the necessary poise. Becoming involved in such uproars and basing our future moves on them will only plunge us into new dilemmas in the future that will be most unpleasant. This is because experience has proved that our relations with important European countries have never progressed beyond a certain point. Whenever we have found ourselves at a favorable level with these countries, we have sustained a blow from the very same countries on the same issues.

Thus, these experiences should be used to guide us and as the basis of our future appraisals.

Paper Attacks West's 'Psychological War' Efforts

NC0711111593 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Oct 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "Justifying a Defeat"]

[Text] Efforts to cover up some military defeats become obvious only when coupled with parallel efforts to make political accusations against independent countries—something which has been repeatedly done by the West until now.

Today America's military and political failures in Somalia have branched off to another military attempt in a bid to distract public opinion—in other words, to efforts to besiege and to establish a military presence in Haiti and the suspicious assassination of the Haitian justice minister.

Immediately after the first signs of a political failure, America always starts taking parallel steps in the political-propaganda field. The experience of the Persian Gulf war showed how much victory and success in a military battle depends on success on the battlefield of news and public opinion.

In view of this, it is clear why in parallel with its efforts for a military presence in Haiti or, more accurately, its efforts to distract public opinion from Somalia, America has started a propaganda movement and a fresh psychological war.

In this fresh psychological war that has been intensifying since last week, the worn out accusation of Iranian assistance and of intervention by the so-called Islamic fundamentalists in Somalia's developments is being repeated, and in parallel with all this, General Mohamed Farah Aidid is being referred to as the symbol of popular resistance and an element that has covert links with Islamic fundamentalism. But what objectives does the West pursue by repeating such accusations? Is this not the known propaganda scenario of bringing America closer to the objectives it has in mind? It seems that, in view of the goals and political views that America promotes, the main elements of this psychological warfare are the following:

—Allegations of Iranian intervention: In this psychological war, America is trying to overshadow its military defeat and failure and to portray Iran the public as an expansionist and interventionist country. Repeating the accusation that the fingerprints of Iran and of Islamic fundamentalists can be seen in Somali developments and linking this issue to a person like Gen Mohamed Farah Aidid indicate different objectives, which raises questions that need to be studied separately;

—Justifying the withdrawal of American forces: Basically speaking, claiming intervention by Islamic fundamentalism in any place and in any hotbed makes it possible to convince public opinion that the reason for the failure of a tactic or for a change in tactics by intervening military forces is the presence of a foreign element called fundamentalism and that this failure has nothing to do with the popular resistance in the country concerned. Thus, first of all the withdrawal of military forces is thereby justified, and secondly, the issue of popular resistance is overshadowed by another issue.

—Efforts to preserve the political gains from the Persian Gulf war: America did not want the gains of the Persian Gulf war, which greatly helped give the impression of the stabilization of Washington's leadership in the new world order, to be tarnished. The fact that the American forces were bogged down in Somalia helped to tarnish this image to a certain extent; and this is not an insignificant issue. It seems that America and the West's mass media made their fresh accusations in a bid to repair this image in the minds of the public.

—Preparing the grounds for increasing the political-military pressures on Iran and on other countries concerned: The repetition of accusations of independent countries lays the political bases for applying possible military pressures in the future. America realizes what the outcome will be of the cultural and popular presence of the Islamic Revolution in the world of Islam, which political analysts are terming the Islamic awakening. Therefore, any new opportunity that will help to pave the way for a future military or political assault against Iran and countries like Sudan will not be ignored by the architects of the West's psychological war.

The West may be pursuing various objectives in the recent psychological war, but America definitely has not been able to achieve any of the objectives of its military presence in Somalia; and this has greatly harmed Washington's prestige with the international public—something which the White House decision-makers did not foresee.

Kharrazi on Opposing West's 'New World Order'

NC0611122893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Oct 93 p 16

[Commentary by Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, permanent representative to the United Nations: "The Notebook of History"]

[Text] History cannot be written in advance, and the future cannot be easily foreseen. Therefore, no matter how strong a human being is, he cannot foresee the future as he wishes. Thus, theories and views such as the end of history, a war between civilizations, a new world order, and so on, which we have been hearing in recent years are nothing but a mere mental exercise.

The work of historians begins after years have passed since an incident. And just as military analysts are unable to assess a war in the heat of battles and should sit and wait until the outcome is clear and then make assessments, historians should also wait for years to pass after an incident in order to be able to offer an assessment.

Gullibility can be found in all parts of the world, both in the East where, basically speaking, intellectualism prevails, and in the West, which stresses materialism. Those who spoke about a new world order following the developments stemming from the downfall of communism soon realized that instead of a new world order a type of new world disorder took charge and that ethnic upheavals started to devour one country after the other. Also, the prevailing forecasts of the Middle East that spoke of the imminent downfall of certain governments often proved to be wrong.

The Americans naively thought that by a military expedition to Somalia they could end the civil war there, make the dispersed tribes reconcile with each other, place someone that they like in command, and then victoriously leave. But realities dictated a different outcome and today the Americans are seeking to move out of Somalia as soon as possible. Contrary to the Kuwaiti experience, which they were able to carry out at a cost of $675 billion which was paid by others, they learned a bitter lesson in Somalia.

The West, which has defeated a dangerous rival like Eastern Communism and is trying to digest this morsel, is helplessly and blunderingly getting involved in everything in order to do so. This is dangerous from several aspects. First of all, in order to achieve domestic unity, the West needs a foreign enemy and Islam is that foreign enemy. Therefore, we see how it propounds the theory of a war of civilizations and is starting to beat its propaganda drums to the effect that Islam should be fought. Secondly, inexperienced people are also dangerous because they want to make up for their failures with force.

Amidst all this, what has not been calculated is the role that faith plays in history. Undoubtedly by making use of the weak points and the naivete of the enemy, nations can continue on their path to gain their true independence and freedom and thus to thwart all of the enemy's forecasts. And the way to achieve this faith is through the teachings of 'Ali, peace be upon him, who said: When I saw how [the enemy's] resolve and high aspiration were destroyed, I came to believe in God.

Transport Minister Comments on Central Asian Agreements

LD0511131393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] On the basis of an agreement reached during the meeting between the transport ministers of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries, and with the construction of Sarakhs-Mashad railway, Central Asian countries will be connected to the two ports of Bandar Abbas and Bandar Imam Khomeyni through Iran's railway network.

Road and Transport Minister Torkan announced the above news in an interview with our correspondent and described the scope of activities that have so far taken place in this connection. He said: So far, 85 percent of the work on the single track railway between Bafq and Bandar Abbas and 70 percent of the work on the double electric tracks have been completed. On the Sarakhs-Mashad line too, 20 percent of the work is now completed.

Referring to the other decisions adopted in the transport ministers meeting in Almaty, Torkan said: The formation of a shipping and aviation company by the ECO and with the investment of ECO member countries was one of the most important items on the agenda of the meeting. The central headquarters of this company will be in Tehran.

The Road and Transport minister said: One of the proposals put forward to the ECO transport ministers meeting by the Islamic Republic of Iran was the addition of a number of new links to the road networks of ECO countries.

In relation to transport agreements reached during our president's visit to Central Asian countries, Torkan told our reporter:

[Begin Torkan recording] We signed agreements with almost all the five countries visited by us. We signed two agreements with each country; one concerned road transportation, and the other was a transit agreement. The Central Asian countries have no access to our southern ports to export their goods or procure their needs. They need to be connected to international markets through our ports. In effect, they are still in the exclusive domain of Russia as far as their commercial activities are concerned. They are very interested in exporting their goods through Iran, and the transit agreements will provide them with this opportunity. [end recording]

Russia Reportedly Asks Iran To Mediate in Tajikistan

LD0611185993 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—KAYHAN HAVAI, the weekly airmail edition of the Kayhan group of newspapers, Saturday quoted the commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Anatoliy Chencholiy in Dushanbe as saying Russia had called on Iran to mediate a peaceful settlement to the crisis in Tajikistan.

He told the weekly's reporter: "Iran's mediation efforts will help to bring about a peaceful settlement to the crisis in Tajikistan. We welcome Iran's diplomatic role. I want you to pass my message on to your government."

Asked by KAYHAN HAVAI if Moscow's involvement in Tajikistan could be a replay of the Afghan war, where Russian intervention plunged the country in chaos for 10 years and worsened the plight of the Muslim people, he vaguely replied: "Some 35,000 troops from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan are protecting the borders of Tajikistan. Our main objective is to avoid military confrontation with Afghanistan. We want better ties with Kabul."

The daily also quoted the CIS armed forces commander as commenting that the Muslim opposition forces had taken control of the Badakhshan region in southern Tajikistan.

Fuel, Clothing To Be Sent to Nakhichevan

LD0611115893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Our country will be sending fuel and warm clothing to the Nakhichevan area according to an agreement signed by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tabriz.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to an agreement signed by the governor general of East Azarbaijan Province and the prime minister of the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, our country will be sending 80,000 tonnes of fuel, including paraffin oil, gas oil, and fuel oil valued at more than $25 million and warm clothing valuing $67,000, to the Nakhichevan area of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In return, it will import its required goods from that country.

In an interview after the signing of the agreement, Nakhichevan Prime Minister (Khan Babayev), expressing appreciation over our country's humanitarian aid for the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, stated he came to Iran to request the continuation of aid. He said: With winter approaching the people of the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan—who are under a total economic blockade as a result of the Karabakh conflict—are faced with a shortage of fuel and warm clothing. He added: Iran's assistance is vital for us.

The governor general of the East Azarbaijan Province declared that Iran—according to its humanitarian policies—will still continue humanitarian aid to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Editorial Condemns Armenian 'Aggression'

NC0611090493 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Insult Demands a Reply"]

[Text] Azeri refugees are flooding into Iran in large groups through the Aras River in the wake of fresh Armenian aggression and occupation of the 'Goradze' region.

According to eyewitnesses, scores of women, children and the elderly have been massacred since the start of the new Armenian assault three days ago.

It is also said that with the fall of the Goradze region the link between Zangelan, a town of about 60,000, and other areas of the Azerbaijan Republic has been cut.

The recent Armenian offensive has two characteristics:

1. The new assaults show that the spirit of aggression continues to dominate the Armenian leaders despite their attempts to blame military action inside Azerbaijan on the Armenians of Karabakh.

But there is no doubt that all acts of aggression by Armenia are taking place in coordination with the leaders of Yerevan. Over the past few years since independence, Armenians have turned into an aggressor which threatens the peace and tranquility of the region.

The Armenians, by taking advantage of the chaotic situation in Azerbaijan to gain more lands, remind the region of the 1980 war of aggression launched by Iraq's Saddam Husayn against Iran whose army was in a state of chaos following the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

2. The important thing to mention in this respect is the timing of the Armenian aggression with the arrival of the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Baku. Armenians had already perpetrated these types of aggression during visits to Baku of lower profile Iranian officials in the sense that whenever a ranking Iranian official traveled to the region, even for mediation, Yerevan embarked on a fresh offensive.

It sounds like the Armenian insult against Iran is more serious than previous occasions. It is not clear why certain Armenian authorities are trying to compel Iran to abandon its neutrality.

Breaking their previous promise to Iran that they would not launch any new offensive during the Iranian president's visit to Azerbaijan, we witnessed thousands more refugees forced to flee to Iran. This is a great affront to Iran which undoubtedly will not go unanswered.

Habibi, Velayati Meet Belarusian, Ukrainian Officials

LD0811185993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Petr Beloy, Belarus deputy foreign minister, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking diplomatic and economic delegation, met and conferred with First Vice President Hasan Habibi this afternoon.

At the meeting Mr. Beloy expressed the gratitude of the government and people of Belarus for Iran's support for that country's independence. He declared the full readiness of Belarus to deepen ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields. He expressed the hope that, with the opening of his country's embassy in Iran and the exchange of delegations between the two countries, relations between the two countries will expand further. He stressed: Considering its capabilities in technical matters and the transfer of technology, Belarus is prepared to cooperate with Iran in specialist training.

Stressing Iran's support for newly independent countries, First Vice President Habibi said: One of the principles of Iran's foreign policy entails establishing ties and strengthening cooperation and relations with newly independent countries. He expressed the hope that the two countries would be more active in educational, technical, and cultural matters, political cooperation, and economic ties.

At a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, the Belarusian deputy foreign minister called for further cooperation between the two countries concerning mutual ties and international organizations.

The expansion of mutual ties was discussed at a meeting today between Mr. Ozadovskiy, special representative of the Ukrainian Government, and Mr. Velayati. The special representative of the Ukrainian Government also submitted a message from his country's foreign minster to Mr. Velayati.

Pakistan

Bhutto Briefs Cabinet on Meeting With U.S. Official

BK0911024093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said talks with the visiting U.S. assistant secretary of state [Robin Raphel] have opened a window of opportunity for improved and positive U.S.- Pakistan relationship. She said the process of exploring ways to eliminate any impediment in the path of relations between the two countries will continue. She said this while briefing the cabinet about her talks with the U.S. official. Appreciating the U.S. Government stand with regard to legal position of the Kashmir dispute, the prime minister said Pakistan emphasized that the United States should focus attention on human rights violations in occupied Kashmir as well as the continued siege of Hazratbal Shrine. She said Pakistan also emphasized that resolution of Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiri people is an important condition for establishing lasting peace in the region. The prime minister pointed out that the Clinton administration should adopt the same point of view of human rights in occupied Kashmir as elsewhere in the world.

The cabinet was informed by the prime minister that the nuclear issue was also discussed. The U.S. official was informed that the Pressler Amendment has become an effective veto in the hands of India which is not serving the cause of nuclear nonproliferation in the region. The prime minister said Pakistan will continue to maintain its principled position on this subject and explore means of settling the disagreement or misunderstanding that may have arisen in the past with the United States.

Leghari: Pressler Amendment 'Major Irritant'

BK0911090593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8—Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari has said that during his talks with US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel they discussed the means to improve bilateral ties. He was talking to a group of journalists at the Foreign Office on Monday.

The Presher Amendment, he said, remains a major irritant in bilateral relations and gives India an undue advantage over Pakistan.

"We have urged the Clinton administration to make changes in the amendment, if they cannot repeal it, because it seriously jeopardises our security needs."

There was certainly no significant progress made on the nuclear issue as Pakistani Foreign Office officials tried to persuade Ms Raphel of a regional solution. While the US endorses a regional approach, it also expects Pakistan to act unilaterally "regardless of what India does", said a US official while talking to THE MUSLIM.

The Foreign Office consistantly played down the nuclear issue and its official releases highlighted the desire on the part of both countries to improve their relations. What they forgot to mention was the reasons for these less-than-perfect relations between the two countries. These reasons, unfortunately, still persist.

The US official said that the nuclear issue remains the major source of tension between Pakistan and the US as Islamabad seeks an "equitable and just solution" in the words of a Foreign Office spokesman.

On the Kashmir issue the Foreign Office officials reiterated the old stand that this should be resolved according to the UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla agreement. Ms Raphel's assertion that Kashmir is a disputed territory was welcomed especially because of its timing if not for novelty.

India is also under tremendous pressure to negotiate, argues Farooq Leghari. Sooner or later they will realise that the best option available to them in to come to the negotiating table.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Welcomes U.S. Position

BK0911155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, has welcomed the U.S. stand on Kashmir, saying that it will be a great source of strength for the Kashmiri people. Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad today, he said India should not forget that Kashmir is not a regional dispute, but an issue of granting the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. He called on India to end the siege on the Hazratbal shrine to avoid further deterioration in the situation in the occupied valley.

Kashmir Liberation Forum Urges U.S. Action at UN

BK0811123193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Rawalpindi, Nov 7: The Kashmir Liberation Forum has urgd the United States to raise Kashmir issue in UN Security Council so as to arrange plebiscite in the Indian-held Kashmir.

This was stated by Syed Abdal Hamid Naz, President Kashmir Liberation Forum, in a telegram to Ms Robin Lynn Raphel, American Assistant Secretary of State on South Asian Affairs.

Welcoming her to Pakistan, Syed Hamid Naz said they are grateful to her for supporting Kashmir cause and saying that Kashmir is not an integral part of India. This is a truth in real sense, he added.

He asked Ms Raphel to prevail upon India to stop further victimisation of Kashmiris. —APP.

Editorials Discuss Expectations for Raphel Tour

Ties Need 'Correct Perspective'

BK0611111193 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Nov 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Ms Raphel's Agenda"]

[Text] The American Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel's visit to Islamabad comes at a crucial point in the history of US-Pakistan relations. This also happens to be a critical juncture in the international politics of South Asia, as the Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination continues to intensify. Since the two are closely interrelated—Washington has for years taken a deep interest in the affairs of the subcontinent and Pakistan's strategic compulsions in the region have had a bearing on its ties with the US—they are bound to figure in Ms Raphel's discussions with her hosts. One hopes that this occasion will provide the opportunity for the two sides to discuss threadbare the issues which have prevented them from keeping their ties on an even keel. For there is no denying the fact that since 1990 when the Bush administration cut off aid under the Pressler Amendment, their relations have run into an impasse.

The major difficulty in Pakistan-American relations has been the failure of the two sides to develop a common perception of their ties. Thus the US believes that the nuclear issue is the key factor in its ties with Islamabad. This has been the case since the mid- seventies when America's excessive but selective concern for nuclear non-proliferation in the Third World has come to dominate its dealings with Pakistan. Convinced that Islamabad's nuclear programme is designed for military purposes, the United States has been demanding a roll-back and has resorted to pressure tactics of all kinds, creating serious strains between them. But for Pakistan the more important issue is the security environment in South Asia on which its survival depends. Islamabad has linked the nuclear question to the state of international relations in South Asia. The US has preferred not to admit the connection between the two but the fact is that the interrelationship between Pakistan's nuclear programme and its equations with New Delhi are all too apparent to be ignored. As long as issues such as Kashmir continue to vitiate Indo-Pakistan ties and an arms race drives them on to build up their defence capabilities, it is unrealistic to expect either of them to sign the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and renounce the nuclear option.

Until now, Pakistan's policy has been directed at persuading the US to adopt an even-handed stance on South Asia. Washington's failure to do so has only aggravated the instability and tension in the region, although the end of the Soviet-American conflict in Afghanistan and the superpower confrontation on a global level should have created conditions conducive to peace and security. Moreover, the unresolved conflicts between the countries of this region have prevented them from moving towards a disarmament regime. Without a grasp of this fact and without a serious conflict resolution initiative, American policy in South Asia will always lack realism and a clear-cut direction.

With the US relieved of the pressures of cold war competition, Ms Raphel should now find herself in a better position to place Indo-Pakistan relations in their correct perspective. This should not be difficult for her given the Clinton Administration's willingness to modify its perceptions of the region, as was evident from its recent statement recognising the disputed status of Kashmir. Once the US has a better understanding of Indo-Pakistan relations, the American position on the nuclear issue could become more realistic. The US must understand that the first priority in the region is to resolve the issues which have led the two countries to adopt such a confrontationist approach vis à-vis each other. Kashmir should be at the head of Ms Raphel's agenda. She has already spoken about the possibility of American mediation. She should pursue this further.

After a beginning has been made towards resolving the Kashmir dispute, the denuclearisation process can also be taken up. An attempt to isolate the nuclear issue from Pakistan's security concerns is futile. Once the Kashmir dispute is out of the way and Pakistan's relations with India are normalised, there is no reason why the two countries should hesitate to consider disarmament measures, including the signing of the NPT. Ms Raphel might recall that SALT-II reached a dead end because of Afghanistan. The INF and START could succeed only after Mr Gorbachev's glasnost had transformed US-USSR relations. Hence, the American goal in South Asia should be to help resolve the conflicts which keep India and Pakistan at loggerheads and locked up in a frenzied arms race rather than force a disarmament process without any progress on the political front.

National Reaction Analyzed

BK0711134793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 7 Nov 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Raphel's Visit and Our Reaction"]

[Text] The US assistant secretary of state, Ms Robin Raphel, is talking to Islamabad on bilateral Pak-US matters. The national press, which became hysterical after the religious parties and related Islamists linked the PLO-Israel deal with Kashmir, has now calmed down, judging from 'second' editorials. The good tiding is that the US is seen to be leaning to Pakistan's point of view, but this tiding has reached Pakistan late, after much chest-beating in New Delhi over the flip-flopping of president Clinton's foreign policy. The epiphany in Pakistan is that the US no longer considers Kashmir an integral part of India; it thinks that Kashmir is a disputed territory and that India and Pakistan must sit down and decide the dispute over it peacefully. So we have started liking Ms Raphel after weeks of indiscriminate punching of the air under the stewardship of Qazi Hussain Ahmed.

Very soon though we will not like Ms Raphel. And that will happen the moment she opens her mouth to the press here. But Pakistanis should know that the US position on Kashmir also includes the observation that the UN resolutions on Kashmir have been superseded by the Simla Agreement, and that any decision about the future of Kashmir should take into account the will of the Muslim as well as the non-Muslim population living there. Already, we have been losing our temper over the US allegation that Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir by training and sending militants there. For a time, we were on the list of terrorist states in Washington, for which we castigated the Americans relentlessly, even after our government undertook to remove some international terrorists. Then we revamped the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], and the assumption is it could have been revamped only after Islamabad realised it had flown off the handle. The truth of the matter is that both India and Pakistan loathe the US for taking the stand sit has taken on Kashmir. It hurts India more because India is the status quo power and is totally rigid over proposals made from time to time for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Pakistan is equally rigid and will start squealing on the press when it learns that the American agenda is to divide Kashmir on religious lines. The rest of the world, more or less, agrees to this, because of what Pakistan has done to the non-Muslims in Pakistan under General Zia and under Mian Nawaz Sharif. Non-Muslim can't vote jointly with Muslim, non-Muslims wives can be 'converted' without the formality of a divorce, ID cards have to carry a column on religion so that non-Muslims can be targeted by fanatics with ease, and the 'insult' law finalised by the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government under which a non-Muslim can be accused of being blasphemous and hanged. Ms Raphel will have talks on the nuclear programme, too, but here Pakistan's position is non-proliferationist and regional which the world is now beginning to accept. The only complication is that under COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Aslam Beg, Pakistan's nuclear programme became suspect and untrust-worthy, because of the man's treacherously foreshortened mind. The fallout of the man's incompetence is still dogging Pakistan in the West and in the Arab world. Our problem is that most of our press is jingoist and almost all our politicians are illiterate; and the intellectual either doesn't exist in an environment of extremism or thinks it more convenient to endorse popular mythology on international relations.

Need for Further U.S. Moves

BK0811033693 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 7 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Kashmir's Shadow on Pak-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] The US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Ms. Robin Raphel is arriving in Pakistan today on a three-day visit to hold talks on a number of bilateral, regional and international issues—most important among these and on the top of the agenda being the question of Kashmir and the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. Both the issues are vital from Islamabad perspective which perceives a definite linkage between the two.

The Kashmir issue now has moved into international limelight. With the siege of Hazratbal in Srinagar entering into its fourth week today and showing no signs of a let up in the confrontation posture of India, the issue has acquired a much greater urgency than before. It is now no longer an ordinary law and order matter of local relevance as New Delhi would like the world to believe but has far wider ramifications. Basically the issue is neither simply a law and order problem nor a case of human rights violations by the Indian security forces but that of the denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris. The Hazratbal incident has only brought into sharper focus the basic question which will remain even if the Indian army stopped killing the protesters demonstrating against the siege and allowed the militants into the shrine safe passage.

Pakistan cannot but welcome a perceptible shift in Washington's and the West's thinking on the issue. On Thursday a British parliamentary delegation submitted to the United Nations a set of proposals aimed at settling the Kashmir dispute beginning with the immediate lifting by India of its siege of the Hazratbal Mosque to be followed by a comprehensive peace process. A few days earlier the US State Department made it plain that Washington did not recognise the legality of the Kashmiri Maharaja's instrument of accession to India. This knocks out the very basis of New Delhi's claim over Kashmir. By refusing to accept the validity of that instrument Washington in effect has admitted that the issue stands where it stood in 1947—an unsettled problem which ought to be resolved.

Reaffirmation of this stance by the US after a prolonged silence since mid-fifties due to the exigencies of power politics and the State Department's assertion that the unrest in valley was of an indigenous nature places the Kashmir issue in its correct perspective.

With the arrival in Pakistan of Ms. Robin Raphel in this perspective, Pakistanis would be eagerly asking: What next? Washington thus far has maintained a studious silence offering no more than a mediating role provided the two sides invited it for such a role. It now has to advance beyond that. Ms. Raphel has to break new ground to initiate a process for determining the will of the Kashmiris by first devising modalities to establish a system which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiris. On this touch stone will be measured the success of the visit.

Topics for Talks Previewed

*BK0811140993 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu
7 Nov 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "U.S. Stand on Kashmir"]

[Text] Talking to local newspaper editors and journalists in Dhaka, Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state and in charge of South Asian affairs at the U.S. State Department, said that "Kashmir is not an integral part of India and the status of Kashmir needs to be determined." Thousands of workers of India's ruling Congress-I party staged demonstrations before the U.S. Embassy in Delhi protesting her remarks on Kashmir. They shouted anti-American slogans and asked President Clinton to refrain from interfering in India's affairs. Mohinder Singh Bitta, president of the Youth Congress-I, handed over a memorandum on behalf of the demonstrators to a representative of the U.S. Embassy on that occasion which said that the "unfriendly and objectionable" statement by the U.S. assistant secretary of state will encourage Kashmiri Muslims struggling to separate Kashmir from India.

The assistant secretary of state of the world's only superpower, the United States, who is currently on an official visit to the region, is due to arrive here on 7 November on a three-day visit to Pakistan. Her statement about Kashmir must have been made after considerable deliberation. Being the assistant secretary of state and chief for South Asian affairs, she cannot say anything which contradicts the official policy of her country. Diplomats do not use words having dual connotations or which are ambiguous. They are famous for "thinking twice even before saying anything." Obviously, they take great care in selecting words and phrases when making a statement, especially when it suggests a message from their governments or when it gives any hint on an issue.

Robin Raphel wanted to convey to India that the United States does not accept the view that Kashmir is an integral part of India. It wants the future status of Kashmir to be determined. By accepting the stark reality, the United States has tried to persuade India to abandon its attitude of continuing the occupation of Kashmir and to acknowledge that Kashmir is an unresolved issue. On earlier occasions too, Raphel told newsmen that it has long been the U.S. position that Kashmir is a disputed territory. Making a statement before the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, she had said that human rights and democracy were among the U.S. Administration's priorities in South Asia. Democratic systems are maintained by almost all countries on the Indian subcontinent.

It has been the wholehearted desire of the U.S. Administration to ensure the supremacy of democracy in this region. The Kashmir issue is a threat to peace and security in this region. The United States had earlier not only advised Pakistan and India to initiate dialogue on the Kashmir issue, but also expressed its readiness to mediate in this regard if the two countries wished.

Apart from an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest during the visit of Robin Raphel, talks are also expected to be held on some specific issues. They include Kashmir, as well as misunderstandings between Pakistan and the United States. The damage caused to Pakistan's interests by the Pressler Amendment needs no elaboration. The amendment was aimed at other countries besides Pakistan, and as long as it exists,it is not possible for Pakistan to receive economic or military aid from the United States. Under the Pressler Amendment, the U.S. president is supposed to testify that Pakistan's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes. In the absence of such authentication, the Congress is authorized to stop economic and military aid. Former President Bush did not testify to the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program, thereby preventing Pakistan from receiving economic or military aid. The same logic was applied while suspending the supply of F-16 aircraft.

Pakistan has provided more than one element of proof of the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. The U.S. Administration has acknowledged its authenticity as well, but no final decision has been made on abrogating the Pressler Amendment. Pakistan proposed holding a five-nation conference to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone. It offered to sign an agreement with India to check nuclear proliferation, and also called for providing security to non-nuclear states from nuclear attack or the threat thereof. Pakistan concluded an agreement with India on nonattack of each other's nuclear installations. It has also offered to open its nuclear installations to International Atomic Energy Agency inspections. In fact, Pakistan provided practical proof that it has no interest in manufacturing nuclear weapons and that it will not manufacture nuclear weapons, despite having complete access to nuclear science and technology and expertise in it. Of course, it will continue to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This is Pakistan's irrevocable right which it will never surrender.

Apart from other issues, talks should also be held on the justification of the Pressler Amendment during Raphel's visit. Pakistan has been drawing international attention to the atrocities being perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and the violations of human rights there. It urges the United States to use its influence and restrain India from carrying out oppression and violence on the people of occupied Kashmir, and persuade India to implement the UN Security Council resolutions in order to secure a peaceful settlement of the issue. Pakistan also wants the United States to realize the dangers to the peace and security of this region due to India's oppressive and aggressive attitude and to force it to adopt the path of peace and reconciliation. A new government is now in power in Pakistan. It has expressed a resolve to work for maintenance of regional and global peace and stability, for the promotion of cordial friendly relations between nations on the basis of equality and coexistence, and taking far-reaching steps for the welfare and prosperity of the people. The new government needs unconditional aid from friendly countries to fulfill its economic objectives. The United States is in a position to meet Pakistan's needs. It should not hesitate and delay in eradicating the misunderstandings with Pakistan which were caused by its own imaginary and self-conceived notions.

Bhutto's Brother Appears in Court, Returned to Custody

BK0611101393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] The special court for speedy trial number two comprising Mr. Ali Ahmad Junejo remanded Mir Murtaza Bhutto to judicial custody till the 13th and the 18th of this month in two separate criminal cases. One case pertains to the hijacking of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] aircraft, while the second relates to Shah Bandar case. Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who recently returned home after 16 years of self-exile, was produced before the court by the police this morning. The court also granted (?request) of his defense counsel and the attorney to visit the Landhi jail twice in a week where he has been lodged.

Spokesman Refutes Press Remarks

BK0711144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The government is committed to establishing rule of law and no deviation from this commitment should be expected from the government of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto. This was stated by a spokesman of the federal government while commenting on remarks in a section of the press regarding Mir Murtaza Bhutto's return to Pakistan. The spokesman said Mir Murtaza Bhutto, MPA [member of provincial assembly]-elect, had been arrested upon arrival at Karachi Airport on the basis of being an absconder under law. The matter is now before the court. Despite the fact that he is the prime minister's brother, no concession was given to him nor was any deviation made from the law. The spokesman said all legal requirements were fulfilled by the concerned authorities and it is incorrect to say that no warrant for arrest was produced. Mir Murtaza Bhutto has since been produced in court and remanded to custody. Visits to him are also permitted in accordance with the jail manual. The spokesman said that submission to the will of law is a manifestation of firm faith in democracy, adding it is unfair for anyone to try to make political capital out of the situation by making false allegations.

Sworn In at Sindh Assembly

BK0811062893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The Sindh Assembly session began in Karachi this morning. Mir Murtaza Bhutto, an elected member of the assembly, took his oath as a member of the house. The assembly session was later adjourned sine die.